SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

South Carolina's Employment Situation
May 2016

Employment Growth Remains Positive

The number of South Carolinians working continued its climb to a new record level in May, which helped push the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate down to 5.6 percent in May from 5.8 percent in April. The number of people employed increased by 2,988 to 2,184,782.

Also driving the rate lower was a decrease in the labor force. The number of unemployed individuals dropped by 4,493 over the month to 129,802. The labor force declined in May by 1,505 to 2,314,584 people.

Since May 2015, the number of people working increased by 71,401, and unemployment fell by 7,243 individuals. The labor force has grown by 64,158 people since a year ago.

Nationally, May's unemployment rate fell from 5 percent to 4.7 percent as many people left the labor force.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted[1])
Seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls improved from April to May 2016 by 3,800 to a record high of 2,043,700.

Increases in South Carolina were primarily due to gains in Education and Health Services (+1,800) and Construction (+1,200). Additional growth was also seen in Government (+700); Professional and Business Services (+500); Leisure and Hospitality (+500); and Manufacturing (+300). Month-to-month declines were reported in Information (-500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-300); Other Services (-300); and Financial Activities (-100).

Compared to May 2015, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up by 47,300. Large increases occurred in Professional and Business Services (+11,500); Education and Health Services (+8,500); Construction (+6,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,100); Leisure and Hospitality (+4,800); Manufacturing (+4,100); Government (+3,400); Financial Activities (+2,000); and Other Services (+700). Information (-500) saw a slight dip.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted[2])

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased from April to May 2016 (+10,400) for a total of 2,060,500. Growth was reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+4,300); Professional and Business Services (+2,700); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,900); Education and Health Services (+800); Financial Activities (+700); Construction (+500); Manufacturing (+500); and Other Services (+100). Mining and Logging remained the same, while some jobs were lost in Government (-900) and Information (-200).

Since May 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up overall in South Carolina's workforce (+45,400). Strong annual gains came from Professional and Business Services (+13,000); Education and Health Services (+8,800); Construction (+6,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+5,500); Government (+3,900); Manufacturing (+3,700); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,700); Financial Activities (+1,800); Other Services (+300); and Mining and Logging (+200). Information (-500) fell.

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[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
May 2016

Industry	May 2016	April 2016	May 2015	April 2016 to May 2016 # Change	April 2016 to May 2016 % Change	May 2015 to May 2016 # Change	May 2015 to May 2016 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	*2,043,700*	*2,039,900*	*1,996,400*	*3,800*	*0.19%*	*47,300*	*2.37%*
Construction	92,500	91,300	86,000	1,200	1.30%	6,500	7.56%
Manufacturing	239,300	239,000	235,200	300	0.13%	4,100	1.74%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	389,500	389,800	383,400	-300	-0.08%	6,100	1.59%
Information	26,100	26,600	26,600	-500	-1.92%	-500	-1.88%
Financial Activities	98,800	98,900	96,800	-100	-0.10%	2,000	2.07%
Professional and Business Services	271,600	271,100	260,100	500	0.18%	11,500	4.42%
Education and Health Services	242,600	240,800	234,100	1,800	0.74%	8,500	3.63%
Leisure and Hospitality	241,700	241,200	236,900	500	0.21%	4,800	2.03%
Other Services	74,300	74,600	73,600	-300	-0.40%	700	0.95%
Government	363,200	362,500	359,800	700	0.19%	3,400	0.94%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
May 2016

Industry	May 2016	April 2016	May 2015	April 2016 to May 2016 # Change	April 2016 to May 2016 % Change	May 2015 to May 2016 # Change	May 2015 to May 2016 % Change
Total Nonfarm	*2,060,500*	*2,050,100*	*2,015,100*	*10,400*	*0.51%*	*45,400*	*2.25%*
Mining and Logging	4,100	4,100	3,900	0	0.00%	200	5.13%
Construction	92,400	91,900	86,400	500	0.54%	6,000	6.94%
Manufacturing	239,300	238,800	235,600	500	0.21%	3,700	1.57%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	389,500	387,600	384,000	1,900	0.49%	5,500	1.43%
Information	26,300	26,500	26,800	-200	-0.75%	-500	-1.87%
Financial Activities	99,100	98,400	97,300	700	0.71%	1,800	1.85%
Professional and Business Services	274,600	271,900	261,600	2,700	0.99%	13,000	4.97%
Education and Health Services	243,700	242,900	234,900	800	0.33%	8,800	3.75%
Leisure and Hospitality	249,300	245,000	246,600	4,300	1.76%	2,700	1.09%
Other Services	74,500	74,400	74,200	100	0.13%	300	0.40%
Government	367,700	368,600	363,800	-900	-0.24%	3,900	1.07%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
May 2016

Area	May 2016	April 2016	May 2015	April 2016 to May 2016 # Change	April 2016 to May 2016 % Change	May 2015 to May 2016 # Change	May 2015 to May 2016 % Change
Statewide	*2,043,700*	*2,039,900*	*1,996,400*	*3,800*	*0.19%*	*47,300*	*2.37%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	340,200	337,800	331,800	2,400	0.71%	8,400	2.53%
Columbia MSA	392,000	392,100	383,600	-100	-0.03%	8,400	2.19%
Florence MSA	87,500	87,600	86,200	-100	-0.11%	1,300	1.51%
Sumter MSA	39,300	39,700	38,800	-400	-1.02%	500	1.29%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
May 2016

Area	May 2016	April 2016	May 2015	April 2016 to May 2016 # Change	April 2016 to May 2016 % Change	May 2015 to May 2016 # Change	May 2015 to May 2016 % Change
Statewide	*2,060,500*	*2,050,100*	*2,015,100*	*10,400*	*0.51%*	*45,400*	*2.25%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	342,800	339,200	335,300	3,600	1.06%	7,500	2.24%
Columbia MSA	394,200	392,200	384,600	2,000	0.51%	9,600	2.50%
Florence MSA	88,000	87,600	87,100	400	0.46%	900	1.03%
Greenville MSA	411,000	407,800	401,400	3,200	0.78%	9,600	2.39%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	78,100	76,900	75,500	1,200	1.56%	2,600	3.44%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	164,400	161,100	161,000	3,300	2.05%	3,400	2.11%
Spartanburg MSA	145,200	145,700	142,200	-500	-0.34%	3,000	2.11%
Sumter MSA	39,500	39,900	39,000	-400	-1.00%	500	1.28%

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		May 2016 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	April 2016 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	May 2015 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Bamberg County	↓	5,495	5,034	461	8.4	5,496	5,017	479	8.7	5,476	4,933	543	9.9
Allendale County	↓	2,775	2,546	229	8.3	2,765	2,515	250	9.0	2,740	2,422	318	11.6
Marion County	↓	13,100	12,032	1,068	8.2	13,138	11,987	1,151	8.8	12,914	11,668	1,246	9.6
Marlboro County	↓	9,701	8,906	795	8.2	9,787	8,947	840	8.6	9,751	8,741	1,010	10.4
Orangeburg County	↓	36,871	33,987	2,884	7.8	37,131	34,034	3,097	8.3	37,233	33,446	3,787	10.2
Williamsburg County	↓	13,039	12,073	966	7.4	13,126	12,077	1,049	8.0	12,770	11,665	1,105	8.7
Fairfield County	↓	10,398	9,641	757	7.3	10,381	9,601	780	7.5	10,153	9,362	791	7.8
Chester County	–	13,836	12,858	978	7.1	13,835	12,857	978	7.1	13,730	12,568	1,162	8.5
Lee County	↓	6,555	6,096	459	7.0	6,583	6,074	509	7.7	6,536	5,931	605	9.3
Dillon County	↓	12,824	11,939	885	6.9	12,832	11,870	962	7.5	12,680	11,553	1,127	8.9
Barnwell County	↓	8,469	7,889	580	6.8	8,576	7,926	650	7.6	8,562	7,799	763	8.9
Union County	↓	11,828	11,041	787	6.7	11,904	11,099	805	6.8	11,744	10,776	968	8.2
Clarendon County	↓	13,327	12,457	870	6.5	13,371	12,439	932	7.0	13,175	12,145	1,030	7.8
Georgetown County	↓	26,032	24,392	1,640	6.3	26,093	24,299	1,794	6.9	25,271	23,271	2,000	7.9
Hampton County	↓	8,411	7,907	504	6.0	8,350	7,803	547	6.6	8,432	7,671	761	9.0
Darlington County	↓	30,326	28,542	1,784	5.9	30,303	28,383	1,920	6.3	30,307	28,102	2,205	7.3
Edgefield County	↑	10,854	10,219	635	5.9	10,908	10,281	627	5.7	10,671	10,016	655	6.1
Cherokee County	↓	23,674	22,295	1,379	5.8	23,961	22,487	1,474	6.2	23,514	21,758	1,756	7.5
Sumter County	↓	44,903	42,312	2,591	5.8	45,629	42,769	2,860	6.3	44,676	41,573	3,103	6.9
McCormick County	↓	3,497	3,298	199	5.7	3,539	3,322	217	6.1	3,479	3,220	259	7.4
Calhoun County	↓	7,083	6,684	399	5.6	7,084	6,640	444	6.3	6,971	6,475	496	7.1
Colleton County	↓	17,203	16,261	942	5.5	17,265	16,244	1,021	5.9	16,867	15,655	1,212	7.2
Abbeville County	↓	10,510	9,942	568	5.4	10,623	10,009	614	5.8	10,530	9,795	735	7.0
Lancaster County	↓	36,667	34,705	1,962	5.4	36,856	34,719	2,137	5.8	36,327	33,920	2,407	6.6
Florence County	↓	66,159	62,672	3,487	5.3	66,310	62,536	3,774	5.7	66,242	61,834	4,408	6.7
Horry County	↓	141,909	134,521	7,388	5.2	140,439	132,367	8,072	5.7	140,678	131,328	9,350	6.6
Aiken County	↓	74,009	70,287	3,722	5.0	75,145	71,228	3,917	5.2	73,767	69,322	4,445	6.0
Greenwood County	↓	31,589	30,017	1,572	5.0	31,878	30,180	1,698	5.3	31,604	29,560	2,044	6.5
Kershaw County	↓	29,464	27,987	1,477	5.0	29,468	27,885	1,583	5.4	28,943	27,184	1,759	6.1
Laurens County	↓	30,937	29,392	1,545	5.0	30,968	29,250	1,718	5.5	30,655	28,599	2,056	6.7
Oconee County	↓	35,280	33,531	1,749	5.0	35,443	33,599	1,844	5.2	34,681	32,628	2,053	5.9
Chesterfield County	↓	21,742	20,667	1,075	4.9	21,795	20,644	1,151	5.3	21,571	20,242	1,329	6.2
Pickens County	↓	56,988	54,302	2,686	4.7	57,083	54,155	2,928	5.1	56,237	52,927	3,310	5.9
Richland County	↓	200,478	191,074	9,404	4.7	201,255	191,235	10,020	5.0	197,553	186,288	11,265	5.7
Newberry County	–	19,382	18,485	897	4.6	19,266	18,373	893	4.6	18,808	17,765	1,043	5.5
Spartanburg County	↓	140,971	134,495	6,476	4.6	142,280	135,282	6,998	4.9	139,568	131,370	8,198	5.9
Berkeley County	↓	94,797	90,511	4,286	4.5	94,709	90,099	4,610	4.9	93,763	88,465	5,298	5.7
Saluda County	↓	9,127	8,720	407	4.5	8,951	8,530	421	4.7	8,819	8,348	471	5.3
York County	↓	127,530	121,742	5,788	4.5	128,223	121,986	6,237	4.9	126,183	119,132	7,051	5.6
Anderson County	↓	90,098	86,091	4,007	4.4	90,094	85,833	4,261	4.7	88,906	83,913	4,993	5.6
Beaufort County	↓	74,060	70,829	3,231	4.4	73,693	69,938	3,755	5.1	72,310	68,274	4,036	5.6
Dorchester County	↓	73,397	70,164	3,233	4.4	73,310	69,813	3,497	4.8	72,555	68,543	4,012	5.5
Greenville County	↓	245,508	235,395	10,113	4.1	245,697	234,813	10,884	4.4	241,971	229,544	12,427	5.1
Jasper County	↓	12,237	11,738	499	4.1	12,106	11,552	554	4.6	11,892	11,263	629	5.3
Charleston County	↓	201,857	193,815	8,042	4.0	201,305	192,694	8,611	4.3	199,030	189,082	9,948	5.0
Lexington County	↓	147,117	141,203	5,914	4.0	147,291	140,929	6,362	4.3	144,575	137,321	7,254	5.0
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	370,051	354,490	15,561	4.2	369,324	352,606	16,718	4.5	365,348	346,090	19,258	5.3
Columbia MSA	↓	403,667	385,309	18,358	4.5	404,430	384,820	19,610	4.8	397,014	374,978	22,036	5.6
Florence MSA	↓	96,485	91,214	5,271	5.5	96,613	90,919	5,694	5.9	96,549	89,936	6,613	6.8
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	423,531	405,180	18,351	4.3	423,842	404,051	19,791	4.7	417,769	394,983	22,786	5.5
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,314,584	2,184,782	129,802	5.6	2,316,089	2,181,794	134,295	5.8	2,250,426	2,113,381	137,045	6.1

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

2015 substate estimates will be revised at the conclusion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual bechmarking process.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up

↓ Unemployment Rate Down

– Unemployment Rate =