



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

Robert Bouyea  
(803) 737-2623  
rbouyea@dew.sc.gov

**For Immediate Release  
October 21, 2016**

### **South Carolina's Employment Situation September 2016**

#### **Employment sets new record high; Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.9 Percent**

The number of South Carolinians working in September rose to an all-time high while the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped below 5 percent for the first time since April 2001.

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.9 percent in September from 5.1 percent in August. The state's unemployment rate also dropped below the national rate for the first time since April 2014.

Employment increased in September by 4,682 to 2,185,902, a new record high, and the unemployed level declined by 4,985 to 112,018. The result was a decrease in the labor force from August to September of 303 people. This is the fifth consecutive month the unemployment rate has decreased.

Since September 2015, employment has increased by 55,693, from 2,130,209 to 2,185,902, and unemployment fell 13,012, from 125,030 to 112,018. The labor force grew by 42,681 people, from 2,255,239 to 2,297,920.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased from 4.9 in August to 5 percent in September.

#### **Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>)**

September's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll level increased by 6,600 from August to a record high level of 2,069,700.

Industries that recorded increases were Professional and Business Services (+3,300); Education and Health Services (+2,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,600); and Manufacturing (+1,500). Growth also was reported in Other Services (+900); Leisure and Hospitality (+800); and Information (+100). Losses occurred in Government (-2,800); Construction (-1,000); and Financial Activities (-400).

Compared to a year ago, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 54,400. Growth was noted in Professional and Business Services (+16,800); Education and Health Services (+13,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,000); Manufacturing (+4,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,800); Financial Activities (+3,200); Government (+3,200); Construction (+2,600); and Other Services (+1,300). Information (-600) saw a dip in employment.

### **Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>2</sup>)**

Gains were seen in not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment in September: up 9,200 from August to September to a level of 2,068,100. Government rose by 12,300, as local public schools accounted for most of the expansion. Other industries adding to the monthly totals were Education and Health Services (+3,500); Professional and Business Services (+3,300); Manufacturing (+1,500); Other Services (+1,200); and Mining and Logging (+100).

Nonfarm employment loss occurred in the Leisure and Hospitality (-8,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,500); Construction (-1,400); Financial Activities (-1,000); and Information (-300).

Since September 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 52,000 overall. Over-the-year growth was recorded in Professional and Business Services (+17,100); Education and Health Services (+11,900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,000); Manufacturing (+4,400); Government (+3,800); Financial Activities (+2,900); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,500); Construction (+2,000); Other Services (+1,800); and Mining and Logging (+300). Information (-700) fell slightly.

**<sup>1</sup>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.

**<sup>2</sup>Not Seasonally Adjusted:** Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

###

## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide  
September 2016

Industry	September 2016	August 2016	September 2015	August 2016 to September 2016		September 2015 to September 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>2,069,700</b>	<b>2,063,100</b>	<b>2,015,300</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>0.32%</b>	<b>54,400</b>	<b>2.70%</b>
Construction	90,100	91,100	87,500	-1,000	-1.11%	2,600	2.97%
Manufacturing	241,400	239,900	237,100	1,500	0.62%	4,300	1.81%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	393,200	391,600	387,200	1,600	0.41%	6,000	1.55%
Information	26,500	26,400	27,100	100	0.38%	-600	-2.21%
Financial Activities	100,600	101,000	97,400	-400	-0.40%	3,200	3.29%
Professional and Business Services	281,000	277,700	264,200	3,300	1.17%	16,800	6.36%
Education and Health Services	249,900	247,400	236,400	2,500	1.00%	13,500	5.71%
Leisure and Hospitality	242,600	241,800	238,800	800	0.33%	3,800	1.59%
Other Services	75,000	74,100	73,700	900	1.20%	1,300	1.76%
Government	365,100	367,900	361,900	-2,800	-0.77%	3,200	0.88%

## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide  
September 2016

Jobs by Industry	September 2016	August 2016	September 2015	August 2016 to September 2016		September 2015 to September 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>2,068,100</b>	<b>2,058,900</b>	<b>2,016,100</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>2.58%</b>
Mining and Logging	4,300	4,200	4,000	100	2.38%	300	7.50%
Construction	89,900	91,300	87,900	-1,400	-1.53%	2,000	2.28%
Manufacturing	241,100	239,600	236,700	1,500	0.63%	4,400	1.86%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	391,300	392,800	385,300	-1,500	-0.38%	6,000	1.56%
Information	26,200	26,500	26,900	-300	-1.13%	-700	-2.60%
Financial Activities	100,400	101,400	97,500	-1,000	-0.99%	2,900	2.97%
Professional and Business Services	281,000	277,700	263,900	3,300	1.19%	17,100	6.48%
Education and Health Services	248,300	244,800	236,400	3,500	1.43%	11,900	5.03%
Leisure and Hospitality	244,300	252,800	241,800	-8,500	-3.36%	2,500	1.03%
Other Services	75,400	74,200	73,600	1,200	1.62%	1,800	2.45%
Government	365,900	353,600	362,100	12,300	3.48%	3,800	1.05%

## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)  
September 2016

Area	September 2016	August 2016	September 2015	August 2016 to September 2016		September 2015 to September 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,069,700</b>	<b>2,063,100</b>	<b>2,015,300</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>0.32%</b>	<b>54,400</b>	<b>2.70%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	347,400	345,600	335,600	1,800	0.52%	11,800	3.52%
Columbia MSA	396,100	394,800	387,700	1,300	0.33%	8,400	2.17%
Florence MSA	87,500	88,000	86,800	-500	-0.57%	700	0.81%
Sumter MSA	39,600	39,800	39,100	-200	-0.51%	500	1.28%

## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)  
September 2016

Area	September 2016	August 2016	September 2015	August 2016 to September 2016		September 2015 to September 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,068,100</b>	<b>2,058,900</b>	<b>2,016,100</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>2.58%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	346,600	345,600	335,200	1,000	0.29%	11,400	3.40%
Columbia MSA	396,100	392,600	386,800	3,500	0.89%	9,300	2.40%
Florence MSA	87,100	86,900	86,800	200	0.23%	300	0.35%
Greenville MSA	409,300	407,300	404,000	2,000	0.49%	5,300	1.31%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	77,800	79,000	75,300	-1,200	-1.52%	2,500	3.32%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	162,000	167,700	158,500	-5,700	-3.40%	3,500	2.21%
Spartanburg MSA	146,400	144,800	143,300	1,600	1.10%	3,100	2.16%
Sumter MSA	39,200	39,100	39,000	100	0.26%	200	0.51%

**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		September 2016				August 2016				September 2015			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Orangeburg County	↓	37,524	34,187	3,337	8.9	38,426	34,074	4,352	11.3	36,699	32,849	3,850	10.5
Bamberg County	↓	5,546	5,057	489	8.8	5,752	5,094	658	11.4	5,393	4,869	524	9.7
Marion County	↑	13,132	11,993	1,139	8.7	13,233	12,097	1,136	8.6	12,907	11,636	1,271	9.8
Allendale County	↓	2,782	2,547	235	8.4	2,863	2,602	261	9.1	2,747	2,471	276	10.0
Marlboro County	↓	9,745	8,977	768	7.9	9,812	8,920	892	9.1	9,440	8,591	849	9.0
Barnwell County	↓	8,504	7,920	584	6.9	8,623	7,930	693	8.0	8,339	7,653	686	8.2
Fairfield County	↓	10,344	9,635	709	6.9	10,458	9,655	803	7.7	10,173	9,377	796	7.8
Williamsburg County	↓	12,998	12,107	891	6.9	13,157	12,115	1,042	7.9	12,727	11,692	1,035	8.1
Chester County	↓	13,714	12,787	927	6.8	14,086	12,909	1,177	8.4	13,463	12,463	1,000	7.4
Lee County	↓	6,521	6,076	445	6.8	6,680	6,134	546	8.2	6,429	5,926	503	7.8
Dillon County	↓	12,764	11,939	825	6.5	12,987	12,070	917	7.1	12,603	11,585	1,018	8.1
Calhoun County	↓	7,131	6,673	458	6.4	7,246	6,707	539	7.4	6,987	6,508	479	6.9
Clarendon County	↓	13,271	12,451	820	6.2	13,480	12,522	958	7.1	13,008	12,080	928	7.1
Darlington County	↓	29,973	28,109	1,864	6.2	30,508	28,426	2,082	6.8	29,932	27,883	2,049	6.8
Georgetown County	↓	25,957	24,389	1,568	6.0	26,317	24,578	1,739	6.6	25,498	23,552	1,946	7.6
Cherokee County	↓	23,858	22,483	1,375	5.8	23,762	22,203	1,559	6.6	23,119	21,554	1,565	6.8
Edgefield County	↓	10,748	10,135	613	5.7	11,028	10,351	677	6.1	10,814	10,065	749	6.9
Sumter County	↓	44,321	41,779	2,542	5.7	44,651	41,756	2,895	6.5	44,108	41,202	2,906	6.6
Union County	↓	11,730	11,061	669	5.7	11,745	10,980	765	6.5	11,648	10,781	867	7.4
Hampton County	↓	8,349	7,883	466	5.6	8,603	8,067	536	6.2	8,275	7,640	635	7.7
Lancaster County	↓	36,488	34,516	1,972	5.4	36,982	34,777	2,205	6.0	35,800	33,640	2,160	6.0
Abbeville County	↓	10,570	10,015	555	5.3	10,520	9,881	639	6.1	10,272	9,593	679	6.6
McCormick County	↓	3,501	3,315	186	5.3	3,492	3,289	203	5.8	3,422	3,196	226	6.6
Colleton County	↓	17,256	16,352	904	5.2	17,304	16,294	1,010	5.8	16,832	15,738	1,094	6.5
Greenwood County	↓	31,865	30,219	1,646	5.2	31,769	29,937	1,832	5.8	30,835	28,972	1,863	6.0
Kershaw County	↓	29,503	27,976	1,527	5.2	29,732	28,011	1,721	5.8	28,906	27,216	1,690	5.8
Florence County	↓	65,163	61,808	3,355	5.1	65,831	62,040	3,791	5.8	65,192	61,163	4,029	6.2
Horry County	↓	139,297	132,150	7,147	5.1	144,742	136,948	7,794	5.4	137,083	128,740	8,343	6.1
Aiken County	↓	73,601	69,911	3,690	5.0	74,932	70,769	4,163	5.6	73,360	69,072	4,288	5.8
Laurens County	↓	30,683	29,145	1,538	5.0	30,905	29,160	1,745	5.6	30,442	28,607	1,835	6.0
Chesterfield County	↓	21,741	20,681	1,060	4.9	21,993	20,734	1,259	5.7	21,256	20,028	1,228	5.8
Oconee County	↓	35,374	33,654	1,720	4.9	35,444	33,491	1,953	5.5	34,346	32,443	1,903	5.5
Pickens County	↓	56,610	53,894	2,716	4.8	56,941	53,728	3,213	5.6	55,874	52,806	3,068	5.5
Richland County	↓	201,047	191,398	9,649	4.8	201,236	190,362	10,874	5.4	196,099	185,470	10,629	5.4
Spartanburg County	↓	141,388	134,797	6,591	4.7	141,317	133,785	7,532	5.3	138,742	131,303	7,439	5.4
York County	↓	127,014	121,164	5,850	4.6	128,401	121,737	6,664	5.2	124,318	117,939	6,379	5.1
Anderson County	↓	89,474	85,432	4,042	4.5	89,914	85,276	4,638	5.2	88,231	83,721	4,510	5.1
Beaufort County	↓	73,525	70,218	3,307	4.5	75,542	71,698	3,844	5.1	71,577	67,816	3,761	5.3
Berkeley County	↓	95,428	91,174	4,254	4.5	95,844	91,064	4,780	5.0	92,383	87,500	4,883	5.3
Saluda County	↓	9,049	8,644	405	4.5	9,360	8,910	450	4.8	9,006	8,538	468	5.2
Dorchester County	↓	73,930	70,658	3,272	4.4	74,279	70,609	3,670	4.9	71,593	67,848	3,745	5.2
Newberry County	↓	19,340	18,517	823	4.3	19,650	18,701	949	4.8	18,889	17,932	957	5.1
Greenville County	↓	243,988	233,649	10,339	4.2	244,627	233,031	11,596	4.7	240,368	228,866	11,502	4.8
Jasper County	↓	12,119	11,617	502	4.1	12,442	11,852	590	4.7	11,857	11,283	574	4.8
Lexington County	↓	147,308	141,252	6,056	4.1	147,666	140,993	6,673	4.5	144,026	137,229	6,797	4.7
Charleston County	↓	203,119	195,050	8,069	4.0	204,038	194,839	9,199	4.5	196,822	187,552	9,270	4.7
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	372,477	356,882	15,595	4.2	374,161	356,512	17,649	4.7	360,798	342,900	17,898	5.0
Columbia MSA	↓	404,382	385,578	18,804	4.7	405,698	384,638	21,060	5.2	395,197	374,338	20,859	5.3
Florence MSA	↓	95,136	89,917	5,219	5.5	96,339	90,466	5,873	6.1	95,124	89,046	6,078	6.4
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,297,920	2,185,902	112,018	4.9	2,298,223	2,181,220	117,003	5.1	2,255,239	2,130,209	125,030	5.5

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 =