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South Carolina's Employment Situation
February 2014

Largest Ever One-Month Drop in the Unemployment Rate

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell significantly to 5.7 percent in February from the January estimate of 6.4 percent. The 0.7 percent drop is the largest one-month decrease ever recorded since the data series began in 1976.

The number of South Carolinians working continues to increase—rising for the seventh consecutive month, up by 8,435 in February—to a historic high of 2,039,455. The estimated number of unemployed persons declined by 13,895, also the largest ever one-month drop, to 124,373. The labor force declined by 5,460 to 2,163,828. Those employed increased by 28,226 since February 2013.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in February.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted[1])

February's seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment fell by 5,300 over the month to a level of 1,912,400. The over-the-month change is the second decrease since June 2013.

- The state had gains in Financial Activities (+700); Government (+600); and Manufacturing (+300).
- Decreases were reported in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-2,400); Education and Health Services (-1,700); Other Services (-1,400); and Leisure and Hospitality (-1,100) with smaller drops in Information (-200) and Construction (-100).

Since February 2013, seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs were up 27,500.

- Over-the-year gains happened in Leisure and Hospitality (+7,700); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+5,900); Manufacturing (+4,700); Professional and Business Services (+4,500); Education and Health Services (+3,300); and Construction (+2,500).
- Declines over the year were reported in Government (-900) and Information (-100).

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

The not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment in February increased by 2,100 over the month to 1,891,100. This increase is atypical and likely due to irregular weather which caused many private businesses and school closings during the survey week.

- Industries reporting increases since last month were Professional and Business Services (+3,600); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,100); and Education and Health Services (+1,500) with modest gains in Government (+300) and Financial Activities (+200).
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-3,800); Other Services (-1,100); Construction (-400); Manufacturing (-200); and Information (-100) registered losses over the month.
- Despite the less than normal monthly gain, not-seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs in the last 12 months were up 33,800 overall in South Carolina. These annual gains came from Leisure and Hospitality (+9,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,800); Professional and Business Services (+5,300); Manufacturing (+4,800); Education and Health Services (+4,100); and Construction (+3,200), with smaller increases in Financial Activities (+500); and Other Services (+400). There were modest losses over the year in Information (-200); Natural Resources and Mining (-100); and Government (-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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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
February 2014

Industry	February 2014	January 2014	February 2013	January 2014 to February 2014 # Change	January 2014 to February 2014 % Change	February 2013 to February 2014 # Change	February 2013 to February 2014 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,912,400	1,917,700	1,884,900	-5,300	-0.28%	27,500	1.44%
Construction	81,100	81,200	78,600	-100	-0.12%	2,500	3.08%
Manufacturing	227,900	227,600	223,200	300	0.13%	4,700	2.06%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	364,000	366,400	358,100	-2,400	-0.66%	5,900	1.62%
Information	26,200	26,400	26,300	-200	-0.76%	-100	-0.38%
Financial Activities	94,800	94,100	94,800	700	0.74%	0	0.00%
Professional and Business Services	243,500	243,500	239,000	0	0.00%	4,500	1.85%
Education and Health Services	220,400	222,100	217,100	-1,700	-0.77%	3,300	1.50%
Leisure and Hospitality	228,100	229,200	220,400	-1,100	-0.48%	7,700	3.38%
Other Services	70,500	71,900	70,500	-1,400	-1.99%	0	0.00%
Government	352,200	351,600	353,100	600	0.17%	-900	-0.26%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
February 2014

Industry	February 2014	January 2014	February 2013	January 2014 to February 2014 # Change	January 2014 to February 2014 % Change	February 2013 to February 2014 # Change	February 2013 to February 2014 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,891,100	1,889,000	1,857,300	2,100	0.11%	33,800	1.82%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,700	3,700	3,800	0	0.00%	-100	-2.63%
Construction	80,100	80,500	76,900	-400	-0.50%	3,200	4.16%
Manufacturing	227,600	227,800	222,800	-200	-0.09%	4,800	2.15%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	358,100	361,900	351,300	-3,800	-1.05%	6,800	1.94%
Information	26,200	26,300	26,400	-100	-0.38%	-200	-0.76%
Financial Activities	94,100	93,900	93,600	200	0.21%	500	0.53%
Professional and Business Services	240,100	236,500	234,800	3,600	1.52%	5,300	2.26%
Education and Health Services	221,600	220,100	217,500	1,500	0.68%	4,100	1.89%
Leisure and Hospitality	215,900	213,800	206,800	2,100	0.98%	9,100	4.40%
Other Services	70,100	71,200	69,700	-1,100	-1.54%	400	0.57%
Government	353,600	353,300	353,700	300	0.08%	-100	-0.03%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas
February 2014

AREA	February 2014	January 2014	February 2013	January 2014 to February 2014		February 2013 to February 2014	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	1,912,400	1,917,700	1,884,900	-5,300	-0.28%	27,500	1.44%
Anderson MSA	65,700	66,000	62,700	-300	-0.46%	3,000	4.57%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	310,900	311,700	308,400	-800	-0.26%	2,500	0.80%
Columbia MSA	363,100	364,100	359,100	-1,000	-0.28%	4,000	1.10%
Florence MSA	84,900	85,200	84,000	-300	-0.35%	900	1.06%
Greenville MSA	315,400	316,700	309,500	-1,300	-0.41%	5,900	1.87%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	120,600	119,900	118,300	700	0.58%	2,300	1.91%
Spartanburg MSA	130,100	129,300	127,000	800	0.61%	3,100	2.38%
Sumter MSA	38,200	38,300	37,500	-100	-0.26%	700	1.83%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan (Not Seasonally Adjusted)
February 2014

AREA	February 2014	January 2014	February 2013	January 2014 to February 2014		February 2013 to February 2014	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	1,891,100	1,889,000	1,857,300	2,100	0.11%	33,800	1.82%
Anderson MSA	65,200	64,900	62,200	300	0.46%	3,000	4.82%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	307,000	306,300	304,800	700	0.23%	2,200	0.72%
Columbia MSA	360,600	359,700	357,100	900	0.25%	3,500	0.98%
Florence MSA	84,800	84,500	83,700	300	0.36%	1,100	1.31%
Greenville MSA	314,800	313,700	307,200	1,100	0.35%	7,600	2.47%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	112,200	110,500	108,900	1,700	1.54%	3,300	3.03%
Spartanburg MSA	129,800	129,000	126,600	800	0.62%	3,200	2.53%
Sumter MSA	38,000	38,200	37,400	-200	-0.52%	600	1.60%

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.*

AREA		February 2014 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	January 2013 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	February 2013 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marion County	↓	10,902	9,744	1,158	10.6	11,243	9,726	1,517	13.5	11,632	9,636	1,996	17.2
Allendale County	↓	3,070	2,747	323	10.5	3,148	2,756	392	12.5	3,240	2,731	509	15.7
Bamberg County	↓	5,455	4,951	504	9.2	5,567	4,955	612	11.0	5,909	5,084	825	14.0
Barnwell County	↓	8,021	7,285	736	9.2	8,228	7,283	945	11.5	8,294	7,122	1,172	14.1
Marlboro County	↓	10,912	9,934	978	9.0	11,175	9,945	1,230	11.0	11,873	10,073	1,800	15.2
Dillon County	↓	12,125	11,106	1,019	8.4	12,410	11,111	1,299	10.5	12,816	11,069	1,747	13.6
Orangeburg County	↓	38,102	34,996	3,106	8.2	38,999	34,991	4,008	10.3	40,993	35,943	5,050	12.3
Williamsburg County	↓	15,061	13,878	1,183	7.9	15,329	13,877	1,452	9.5	15,471	13,634	1,837	11.9
Chester County	↓	14,511	13,383	1,128	7.8	14,801	13,349	1,452	9.8	15,206	13,246	1,960	12.9
Clarendon County	↓	11,750	10,835	915	7.8	12,030	10,835	1,195	9.9	12,208	10,631	1,577	12.9
McCormick County	↓	3,201	2,950	251	7.8	3,270	2,948	322	9.8	3,378	2,960	418	12.4
Union County	↓	11,448	10,566	882	7.7	11,641	10,533	1,108	9.5	12,114	10,552	1,562	12.9
Hampton County	↓	7,413	6,851	562	7.6	7,555	6,867	688	9.1	7,656	6,755	901	11.8
Horry County	↓	121,620	112,868	8,752	7.2	121,847	110,442	11,405	9.4	123,566	109,877	13,689	11.1
Fairfield County	↓	10,047	9,340	707	7.0	10,111	9,263	848	8.4	10,428	9,245	1,183	11.3
York County	↓	112,669	104,785	7,884	7.0	113,576	103,908	9,668	8.5	115,389	102,151	13,238	11.5
Colleton County	↓	16,546	15,427	1,119	6.8	16,820	15,436	1,384	8.2	16,682	14,848	1,834	11.0
Edgefield County	↓	10,814	10,074	740	6.8	10,840	9,983	857	7.9	11,122	10,146	976	8.8
Lee County	↓	7,760	7,236	524	6.8	7,863	7,216	647	8.2	8,064	7,208	856	10.6
Chesterfield County	↓	18,274	17,051	1,223	6.7	18,607	17,046	1,561	8.4	19,198	16,932	2,266	11.8
Cherokee County	↓	24,876	23,244	1,632	6.6	25,233	23,187	2,046	8.1	25,958	23,092	2,866	11.0
Georgetown County	↓	28,598	26,743	1,855	6.5	28,979	26,684	2,295	7.9	27,958	25,133	2,825	10.1
Lancaster County	↓	32,984	30,895	2,089	6.3	33,479	30,839	2,640	7.9	33,894	30,201	3,693	10.9
Abbeville County	↓	10,610	9,951	659	6.2	10,764	9,935	829	7.7	11,032	9,953	1,079	9.8
Darlington County	↓	29,492	27,655	1,837	6.2	29,772	27,400	2,372	8.0	30,371	27,418	2,953	9.7
Florence County	↓	61,841	57,986	3,855	6.2	62,252	57,452	4,800	7.7	63,413	57,487	5,926	9.3
Aiken County	↓	75,924	71,354	4,570	6.0	76,629	70,712	5,917	7.7	78,361	71,871	6,490	8.3
Greenwood County	↓	30,025	28,220	1,805	6.0	30,495	28,244	2,251	7.4	30,932	27,855	3,077	9.9
Sumter County	↓	43,726	41,134	2,592	5.9	44,126	40,850	3,276	7.4	44,610	40,361	4,249	9.5
Oconee County	↓	31,036	29,254	1,782	5.7	31,472	29,200	2,272	7.2	31,349	28,561	2,788	8.9
Calhoun County	↓	6,312	5,980	332	5.3	6,366	5,931	435	6.8	6,585	5,919	666	10.1
Laurens County	↓	29,623	28,103	1,520	5.1	29,747	27,786	1,961	6.6	29,767	27,355	2,412	8.1
Richland County	↓	180,711	171,691	9,020	5.0	181,713	170,264	11,449	6.3	183,717	169,929	13,788	7.5
Spartanburg County	↓	138,023	131,320	6,703	4.9	138,106	129,599	8,507	6.2	139,131	127,928	11,203	8.1
Berkeley County	↓	85,453	81,339	4,114	4.8	85,659	80,639	5,020	5.9	86,771	80,644	6,127	7.1
Kershaw County	↓	28,941	27,561	1,380	4.8	29,018	27,331	1,687	5.8	29,508	27,278	2,230	7.6
Beaufort County	↓	64,326	61,332	2,994	4.7	65,236	61,373	3,863	5.9	61,447	56,816	4,631	7.5
Newberry County	↓	17,584	16,766	818	4.7	17,805	16,769	1,036	5.8	18,359	16,941	1,418	7.7
Anderson County	↓	86,326	82,431	3,895	4.5	86,331	81,450	4,881	5.7	85,511	78,999	6,512	7.6
Jasper County	↓	10,405	9,940	465	4.5	10,545	9,947	598	5.7	10,043	9,208	835	8.3
Saluda County	↓	8,796	8,398	398	4.5	8,850	8,328	522	5.9	8,964	8,311	653	7.3
Dorchester County	↓	68,040	65,035	3,005	4.4	68,194	64,475	3,719	5.5	69,075	64,480	4,595	6.7
Pickens County	↓	56,788	54,284	2,504	4.4	56,844	53,671	3,173	5.6	56,764	52,838	3,926	6.9
Charleston County	↓	175,138	167,633	7,505	4.3	175,739	166,190	9,549	5.4	177,749	166,202	11,547	6.5
Greenville County	↓	228,542	219,142	9,400	4.1	228,568	216,669	11,899	5.2	228,073	213,305	14,768	6.5
Lexington County	↓	133,938	128,552	5,386	4.0	134,235	127,483	6,752	5.0	135,702	127,233	8,469	6.2
Charleston MSA	↓	328,632	314,007	14,625	4.5	329,592	311,304	18,288	5.5	333,595	311,326	22,269	6.7
Columbia MSA	↓	368,745	351,521	17,224	4.7	370,293	348,600	21,693	5.9	374,904	347,915	26,989	7.2
Florence MSA	↓	91,333	85,641	5,692	6.2	92,024	84,852	7,172	7.8	93,784	84,905	8,879	9.5
Greenville MSA	↓	314,953	301,529	13,424	4.3	315,159	298,126	17,033	5.4	314,603	293,497	21,106	6.7

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

AREA		February 2014 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	January 2013 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	February 2013 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
South Carolina	↓	2,163,828	2,039,455	124,373	5.7	2,169,288	2,031,020	138,268	6.4	2,189,364	2,011,229	178,135	8.1

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 =