



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

South Carolina's Employment Situation December 2015

More Than 10,000 South Carolinians Find Work in December, Unemployment Rate remains at 5.5 Percent

The December unemployment rate remained unchanged from November at 5.5 percent. However, the number of people working in South Carolina grew by 10,111 people, pushing South Carolina's employment level to 2,147,642, a historic high.

The number of people unemployed was virtually unchanged from November to December at 124,022 while the labor force increased by 10,300 to 2,271,664 people.

Over the past year, employment gains totaled 78,452, an all-time, year-over-year record for the state. Since December 2014, the number of unemployed people has decreased by 23,040, and the labor force has grown by nearly 55,412 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate held steady at 5 percent in December.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

Seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls for December increased from November by 15,100 to reach a record high level of 2,040,200.

- The top industries with gains were Professional and Business Services (+5,200) and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,800).
- Job advances were also reported in Other Services (+1,800); Manufacturing (+1,400); Government (+1,400); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,000); Financial Activities (+900); Construction (+200); Information (+200); and Education and Health Services (+100).

Compared to December 2014, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 65,000.

- Industries posting gains were Professional and Business Services (+19,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+13,300); Education and Health Services (+11,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+10,800); Construction (+6,000); Government (+4,000); and Other Services (+3,000).
- Declines were reported in Financial Activities (-1,700); Manufacturing (-1,300); and Information (-300).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

From November to December, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 5,800 to 2,040,400. Gains were counted in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,800); Professional and Business Services (+2,700); Manufacturing (+1,200); Other Services (+1,100); Financial Activities (+800); Construction (+600); Natural Resources and Mining (+100); and Information (+100). Industries with decreases were Leisure and Hospitality (-5,400); Education and Health Services (-100); and Government (-100).

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs from December 2014 to December 2015 were up 64,500 in the Palmetto State. Strong annual gains came from Professional and Business Services (+19,600); Leisure and Hospitality (+12,800); Education and Health Services (+11,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,000); Construction (+6,000); Government (+4,100); and Other Services (+3,000). Four industries registered losses over the year: Financial Activities (-1,700); Manufacturing (-1,300); Information (-400); and Natural Resources and Mining (-100).

¹Seasonally 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.

²Not 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
December 2015**

Industry	December 2015	November 2015	December 2014	November 2015 to December 2015		December 2014 to December 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,040,200	2,025,100	1,975,200	15,100	0.74%	65,000	3.29%
Construction	89,700	89,500	83,700	200	0.22%	6,000	7.17%
Manufacturing	232,000	230,600	233,300	1,400	0.60%	-1,300	-0.56%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	390,400	387,600	379,600	2,800	0.72%	10,800	2.85%
Information	26,700	26,500	27,000	200	0.75%	-300	-1.11%
Financial Activities	95,000	94,100	96,700	900	0.95%	-1,700	-1.76%
Professional and Business Services	281,100	275,900	261,300	5,200	1.85%	19,800	7.58%
Education and Health Services	239,300	239,200	227,800	100	0.04%	11,500	5.05%
Leisure and Hospitality	243,600	242,600	230,300	1,000	0.41%	13,300	5.78%
Other Services	74,600	72,800	71,600	1,800	2.41%	3,000	4.19%
Government	364,000	362,600	360,000	1,400	0.38%	4,000	1.11%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**Statewide
December 2015**

Industry	December 2015	November 2015	December 2014	November 2015 to December 2015		December 2014 to December 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,040,400	2,034,600	1,975,900	5,800	0.29%	64,500	3.26%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,800	3,700	3,900	100	2.70%	-100	-2.56%
Construction	89,800	89,200	83,800	600	0.67%	6,000	7.16%
Manufacturing	232,700	231,500	234,000	1,200	0.52%	-1,300	-0.56%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	397,200	392,400	386,200	4,800	1.22%	11,000	2.85%
Information	26,600	26,500	27,000	100	0.38%	-400	-1.48%
Financial Activities	95,300	94,500	97,000	800	0.85%	-1,700	-1.75%
Professional and Business Services	279,600	276,900	260,000	2,700	0.98%	19,600	7.54%
Education and Health Services	240,900	241,000	229,400	-100	-0.04%	11,500	5.01%
Leisure and Hospitality	231,800	237,200	219,000	-5,400	-2.28%	12,800	5.84%
Other Services	74,600	73,500	71,600	1,100	1.50%	3,000	4.19%
Government	368,100	368,200	364,000	-100	-0.03%	4,100	1.13%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas December 2015

Area	December 2015	November 2015	December 2014	November 2015 to December 2015		December 2014 to December 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,040,200	2,025,100	1,975,200	15,100	0.74%	65,000	3.29%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	335,000	334,800	327,400	200	0.06%	7,600	2.32%
Columbia MSA	388,600	385,900	374,300	2,700	0.69%	14,300	3.82%
Florence MSA	85,800	85,000	85,000	800	0.93%	800	0.94%
Sumter MSA	38,700	38,500	38,900	200	0.52%	-200	-0.51%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas December 2015

Area	December 2015	November 2015	December 2014	November 2015 to December 2015		December 2014 to December 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,040,400	2,034,600	1,975,900	5,800	0.29%	64,500	3.26%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	334,800	335,800	327,200	-1,000	-0.30%	7,600	2.32%
Columbia MSA	390,800	390,300	376,300	500	0.13%	14,500	3.85%
Florence MSA	86,600	86,200	85,800	400	0.46%	800	0.93%
Greenville MSA	408,200	405,300	397,000	2,900	0.72%	11,200	2.82%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	72,100	72,500	72,200	-400	-0.55%	-100	-0.14%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	152,200	154,300	148,200	-2,100	-1.36%	4,000	2.70%
Spartanburg MSA	146,000	145,400	141,700	600	0.41%	4,300	3.03%
Sumter MSA	39,000	38,700	39,200	300	0.78%	-200	-0.51%

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

AREA		December 2015				November 2015				December 2014			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Marion County	↑	13,107	11,887	1,220	9.3	13,003	11,826	1,177	9.1	12,780	11,370	1,410	11.0
Marlboro County	↑	10,267	9,341	926	9.0	10,113	9,230	883	8.7	9,798	8,808	990	10.1
Allendale County	↓	2,965	2,701	264	8.9	2,928	2,665	263	9.0	2,923	2,572	351	12.0
Orangeburg County	↓	38,897	35,547	3,350	8.6	38,652	35,232	3,420	8.8	37,977	33,618	4,359	11.5
Bamberg County	↓	5,710	5,225	485	8.5	5,666	5,159	507	8.9	5,592	4,948	644	11.5
Williamsburg County	↓	13,377	12,239	1,138	8.5	13,285	12,120	1,165	8.8	12,907	11,668	1,239	9.6
Dillon County	↑	12,927	11,919	1,008	7.8	12,771	11,792	979	7.7	12,541	11,385	1,156	9.2
Georgetown County	↑	26,264	24,208	2,056	7.8	26,119	24,118	2,001	7.7	25,207	23,037	2,170	8.6
Lee County	↑	6,571	6,077	494	7.5	6,497	6,025	472	7.3	6,404	5,852	552	8.6
Fairfield County	—	10,288	9,526	762	7.4	10,263	9,507	756	7.4	9,909	9,099	810	8.2
Chester County	↑	13,951	12,948	1,003	7.2	13,852	12,875	977	7.1	13,643	12,421	1,222	9.0
Barnwell County	↓	8,978	8,344	634	7.1	8,903	8,261	642	7.2	8,741	7,952	789	9.0
Horry County	↑	132,362	122,914	9,448	7.1	133,249	124,617	8,632	6.5	129,339	118,571	10,768	8.3
Clarendon County	↑	13,370	12,437	933	7.0	13,241	12,341	900	6.8	12,989	11,916	1,073	8.3
Darlington County	↑	29,776	27,736	2,040	6.9	29,510	27,585	1,925	6.5	29,463	27,242	2,221	7.5
Hampton County	↑	8,563	7,976	587	6.9	8,490	7,919	571	6.7	8,410	7,696	714	8.5
Union County	—	11,809	11,047	762	6.5	11,755	10,988	767	6.5	11,496	10,585	911	7.9
Sumter County	↑	43,903	41,105	2,798	6.4	43,683	40,928	2,755	6.3	43,768	40,687	3,081	7.0
Edgefield County	↑	10,771	10,101	670	6.2	10,735	10,083	652	6.1	10,587	9,904	683	6.5
McCormick County	↑	3,647	3,425	222	6.1	3,625	3,408	217	6.0	3,533	3,258	275	7.8
Colleton County	↑	17,412	16,368	1,044	6.0	17,327	16,322	1,005	5.8	16,768	15,574	1,194	7.1
Florence County	↑	64,348	60,515	3,833	6.0	64,134	60,329	3,805	5.9	63,893	59,293	4,600	7.2
Calhoun County	↓	7,040	6,630	410	5.8	7,044	6,626	418	5.9	6,864	6,342	522	7.6
Cherokee County	↓	24,207	22,822	1,385	5.7	24,005	22,602	1,403	5.8	23,371	21,589	1,782	7.6
Lancaster County	↑	35,554	33,564	1,990	5.6	35,365	33,424	1,941	5.5	34,472	32,176	2,296	6.7
Abbeville County	↓	10,818	10,219	599	5.5	10,751	10,143	608	5.7	10,418	9,657	761	7.3
Kershaw County	↑	28,762	27,219	1,543	5.4	28,693	27,170	1,523	5.3	27,718	25,996	1,722	6.2
Laurens County	—	30,589	28,940	1,649	5.4	30,419	28,776	1,643	5.4	29,861	27,841	2,020	6.8
Oconee County	↑	35,730	33,801	1,929	5.4	35,339	33,511	1,828	5.2	34,169	32,092	2,077	6.1
Aiken County	—	73,859	69,930	3,929	5.3	73,586	69,685	3,901	5.3	72,943	68,400	4,543	6.2
Chesterfield County	—	21,928	20,764	1,164	5.3	21,786	20,625	1,161	5.3	21,148	19,796	1,352	6.4
Greenwood County	↓	32,550	30,884	1,666	5.1	32,274	30,581	1,693	5.2	31,292	29,219	2,073	6.6
Richland County	—	197,429	187,298	10,131	5.1	196,948	186,807	10,141	5.1	189,720	178,437	11,283	5.9
Pickens County	—	56,401	53,560	2,841	5.0	56,084	53,254	2,830	5.0	54,707	51,462	3,245	5.9
Beaufort County	↑	67,909	64,570	3,339	4.9	68,303	65,041	3,262	4.8	67,796	63,820	3,976	5.9
Berkeley County	↑	91,580	87,133	4,447	4.9	91,637	87,266	4,371	4.8	89,440	84,147	5,293	5.9
Dorchester County	↑	70,998	67,548	3,450	4.9	71,113	67,674	3,439	4.8	69,218	65,242	3,976	5.7
Spartanburg County	—	139,602	132,731	6,871	4.9	138,760	131,914	6,846	4.9	135,267	127,185	8,082	6.0
York County	—	124,813	118,864	5,949	4.8	124,384	118,416	5,968	4.8	121,105	113,843	7,262	6.0
Anderson County	—	88,433	84,335	4,098	4.6	87,844	83,770	4,074	4.6	86,019	81,063	4,956	5.8
Saluda County	↓	8,892	8,482	410	4.6	8,886	8,468	418	4.7	8,656	8,189	467	5.4
Jasper County	↑	11,236	10,732	504	4.5	11,397	10,890	507	4.4	11,217	10,590	627	5.6
Newberry County	↓	19,077	18,213	864	4.5	18,900	18,038	862	4.6	18,340	17,338	1,002	5.5
Greenville County	↓	239,587	229,218	10,369	4.3	238,058	227,657	10,401	4.4	232,444	220,266	12,178	5.2
Lexington County	—	143,030	136,839	6,191	4.3	142,798	136,650	6,148	4.3	137,548	130,550	6,998	5.1
Charleston County	—	194,466	186,245	8,221	4.2	195,195	187,014	8,181	4.2	189,534	179,856	9,678	5.1
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	—	357,044	340,926	16,118	4.5	357,945	341,954	15,991	4.5	348,192	329,245	18,947	5.4
Columbia MSA	—	395,441	375,994	19,447	4.9	394,632	375,228	19,404	4.9	380,415	358,613	21,802	5.7
Florence MSA	↑	94,124	88,251	5,873	6.2	93,644	87,914	5,730	6.1	93,356	86,535	6,821	7.3
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	—	415,010	396,053	18,957	4.6	412,405	393,457	18,948	4.6	403,031	380,632	22,399	5.6
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	—	2,271,664	2,147,642	124,022	5.5	2,261,364	2,137,531	123,833	5.5	2,216,252	2,069,190	147,062	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 =