For Immediate Release

South Carolina's Employment Situation
October 2016

Employment Continues Climb, Unemployment Rate Falls Again

The South Carolina unemployment rate continued its downward trend in October as employment levels reached another record high.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 4.7 percent in October from 4.9 percent in September, the lowest level since March 2001. October's decrease marks the sixth consecutive month the unemployment rate has dropped.

Employment increased by 6,885 in October to a record level of 2,193,017 while the number of unemployed declined by 3,433 to 108,508, the lowest level since August 2001. This resulted in an increase in the labor force of 3,452 to 2,301,525.

Since October 2015, the number of employed people has increased 59,347, and the labor force has increased by 43,460. The number of unemployed fell by 15,887.

Nationally, the October jobless rate decreased to 4.9 percent from 5 percent in September.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted[1])
October's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll level decreased 9,900 from September to a level of 2,061,000.

Decreases were recorded in Education and Health Services (-2,000); Manufacturing (-1,900); Leisure and Hospitality (-1,800); Financial Activities (-1,600); Government (-1,400); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,300). Additional losses were seen in Other Services (-700) and Information (-300), with growth reported in Construction (+500) and Professional and Business Services (+500).

Compared to October 2015, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 40,000. Growth was noted in Professional and Business Services (+14,800); Education and Health Services (+9,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,400); Manufacturing (+2,900); Construction (+2,300); Financial Activities (+2,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,800); Government (+700); and Other Services (+100). Information (-1,000) saw a drop in employment.

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

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment in October increased 400 over the month to a level of 2,069,700. Employment usually increases during the month of October as state and local schools complete staffing.

Contributing to the increase was employment gains in Government (+2,600); Professional and Business Services (+2,500); Construction (+1,700); and Education and Health Services (+1,600), in addition to Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+300); and Mining and Logging (+100). Information remained flat.

However, nonfarm employment loss occurred in the Leisure and Hospitality (-5,200); Manufacturing (-1,300); Other Services (-1,200); and Financial Activities (-700).

Since October 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 42,700 overall. Over-the-year growth was recorded in Professional and Business Services (+14,900); Education and Health Services (+9,700); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+5,300); Manufacturing (+3,300); Construction (+3,100); Financial Activities (+2,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,000); Government (+1,800); Mining and Logging (+400); and Other Services (+300). Information (-900) fell slightly.

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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
October 2016

Industry	October 2016	September 2016	October 2015	September 2016 to October 2016 # Change	September 2016 to October 2016 % Change	October 2015 to October 2016 # Change	October 2015 to October 2016 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	*2,061,000*	*2,070,900*	*2,021,000*	*-9,900*	*-0.48%*	*40,000*	*1.98%*
Construction	90,400	89,900	88,100	500	0.55%	2,300	2.61%
Manufacturing	239,600	241,500	236,700	-1,900	-0.79%	2,900	1.23%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	392,200	393,500	385,800	-1,300	-0.33%	6,400	1.66%
Information	26,100	26,400	27,100	-300	-1.15%	-1,000	-3.69%
Financial Activities	98,800	100,400	96,800	-1,600	-1.62%	2,000	2.07%
Professional and Business Services	283,000	282,500	268,200	500	0.18%	14,800	5.52%
Education and Health Services	247,900	249,900	238,300	-2,000	-0.81%	9,600	4.03%
Leisure and Hospitality	241,800	243,600	240,000	-1,800	-0.74%	1,800	0.75%
Other Services	73,700	74,400	73,600	-700	-0.95%	100	0.14%
Government	363,100	364,500	362,400	-1,400	-0.39%	700	0.19%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
October 2016

Industry	October 2016	September 2016	October 2015	September 2016 to October 2016 # Change	September 2016 to October 2016 % Change	October 2015 to October 2016 # Change	October 2015 to October 2016 % Change
Total Nonfarm	*2,069,700*	*2,069,300*	*2,027,000*	*400*	*0.02%*	*42,700*	*2.11%*
Mining and Logging	4,400	4,300	4,000	100	2.33%	400	10.00%
Construction	91,400	89,700	88,300	1,700	1.90%	3,100	3.51%
Manufacturing	239,900	241,200	236,600	-1,300	-0.54%	3,300	1.39%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	391,900	391,600	386,600	300	0.08%	5,300	1.37%
Information	26,100	26,100	27,000	0	0.00%	-900	-3.33%
Financial Activities	99,500	100,200	96,700	-700	-0.70%	2,800	2.90%
Professional and Business Services	285,000	282,500	270,100	2,500	0.88%	14,900	5.52%
Education and Health Services	249,900	248,300	240,200	1,600	0.64%	9,700	4.04%
Leisure and Hospitality	240,100	245,300	238,100	-5,200	-2.12%	2,000	0.84%
Other Services	73,600	74,800	73,300	-1,200	-1.60%	300	0.41%
Government	367,900	365,300	366,100	2,600	0.71%	1,800	0.49%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
October 2016

Area	October 2016	September 2016	October 2015	September 2016 to October 2016		October 2015 to October 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	*2,061,000*	*2,070,900*	*2,021,000*	*-9,900*	*-0.48%*	*40,000*	*1.98%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	346,700	347,400	335,600	-700	-0.20%	11,100	3.31%
Columbia MSA	395,300	398,000	387,700	-2,700	-0.68%	7,600	1.96%
Florence MSA	86,800	87,600	87,000	-800	-0.92%	-200	-0.23%
Sumter MSA	39,300	39,600	39,100	-300	-0.76%	200	0.51%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
October 2016

Area	October 2016	September 2016	October 2015	September 2016 to October 2016		October 2015 to October 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	*2,069,700*	*2,069,300*	*2,027,000*	*400*	*0.02%*	*42,700*	*2.11%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	346,900	346,600	336,200	300	0.09%	10,700	3.18%
Columbia MSA	397,700	398,000	389,800	-300	-0.08%	7,900	2.03%
Florence MSA	87,200	87,200	87,000	0	0.00%	200	0.23%
Greenville MSA	414,100	410,400	408,700	3,700	0.90%	5,400	1.32%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	76,200	77,600	75,400	-1,400	-1.80%	800	1.06%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	156,300	162,000	154,900	-5,700	-3.52%	1,400	0.90%
Spartanburg MSA	147,800	146,400	145,100	1,400	0.96%	2,700	1.86%
Sumter MSA	39,200	39,200	39,300	0	0.00%	-100	-0.25%

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		October 2016				September 2016				October 2015			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Orangeburg County	↑	37,727	34,210	3,517	9.3	37,384	34,054	3,330	8.9	37,106	32,983	4,123	11.1
Bamberg County	↑	5,545	5,042	503	9.1	5,519	5,031	488	8.8	5,432	4,860	572	10.5
Marion County	−	13,052	11,922	1,130	8.7	13,093	11,955	1,138	8.7	12,868	11,603	1,265	9.8
Allendale County	↓	2,751	2,528	223	8.1	2,768	2,534	234	8.5	2,728	2,452	276	10.1
Marlboro County	↓	9,736	8,991	745	7.7	9,698	8,931	767	7.9	9,573	8,627	946	9.9
Williamsburg County	↑	13,017	12,106	911	7.0	12,945	12,056	889	6.9	13,098	11,712	1,386	10.6
Barnwell County	↓	8,500	7,933	567	6.7	8,476	7,893	583	6.9	8,350	7,669	681	8.2
Dillon County	↑	12,734	11,899	835	6.6	12,712	11,889	823	6.5	12,604	11,552	1,052	8.3
Chester County	↓	13,875	12,990	885	6.4	13,726	12,801	925	6.7	13,632	12,567	1,065	7.8
Fairfield County	↓	10,320	9,663	657	6.4	10,378	9,670	708	6.8	10,211	9,414	797	7.8
Calhoun County	↓	7,131	6,683	448	6.3	7,153	6,696	457	6.4	7,014	6,528	486	6.9
Lee County	↓	6,473	6,064	409	6.3	6,510	6,066	444	6.8	6,440	5,922	518	8.0
Clarendon County	↓	13,208	12,423	785	5.9	13,223	12,405	818	6.2	13,087	12,095	992	7.6
Georgetown County	↓	25,727	24,207	1,520	5.9	25,860	24,295	1,565	6.1	25,813	23,491	2,322	9.0
Darlington County	↓	29,849	28,106	1,743	5.8	29,953	28,093	1,860	6.2	29,974	27,860	2,114	7.1
Sumter County	↓	44,294	41,868	2,426	5.5	44,331	41,792	2,539	5.7	44,452	41,506	2,946	6.6
Edgefield County	↓	10,735	10,160	575	5.4	10,763	10,150	613	5.7	10,860	10,041	819	7.5
Cherokee County	↓	23,880	22,609	1,271	5.3	23,768	22,394	1,374	5.8	23,242	21,732	1,510	6.5
Hampton County	↓	8,218	7,790	428	5.2	8,317	7,852	465	5.6	8,209	7,592	617	7.5
Horry County	↑	135,081	128,009	7,072	5.2	139,227	132,093	7,134	5.1	134,630	125,983	8,647	6.4
McCormick County	↓	3,507	3,326	181	5.2	3,489	3,303	186	5.3	3,449	3,221	228	6.6
Union County	↓	11,800	11,184	616	5.2	11,727	11,060	667	5.7	11,702	10,888	814	7.0
Lancaster County	↓	36,942	35,074	1,868	5.1	36,524	34,556	1,968	5.4	36,104	33,964	2,140	5.9
Abbeville County	↓	10,576	10,062	514	4.9	10,526	9,972	554	5.3	10,356	9,686	670	6.5
Colleton County	↓	17,209	16,360	849	4.9	17,195	16,292	903	5.3	16,893	15,818	1,075	6.4
Florence County	↓	65,108	61,925	3,183	4.9	65,126	61,773	3,353	5.1	65,423	61,351	4,072	6.2
Kershaw County	↓	29,502	28,063	1,439	4.9	29,599	28,076	1,523	5.1	29,014	27,334	1,680	5.8
Greenwood County	↓	31,884	30,338	1,546	4.8	31,735	30,091	1,644	5.2	30,964	29,179	1,785	5.8
Aiken County	↓	73,767	70,352	3,415	4.6	73,699	70,015	3,684	5.0	73,354	69,136	4,218	5.8
Chesterfield County	↓	21,729	20,727	1,002	4.6	21,671	20,614	1,057	4.9	21,298	20,104	1,194	5.6
Laurens County	↓	30,895	29,478	1,417	4.6	30,729	29,194	1,535	5.0	30,688	28,907	1,781	5.8
Beaufort County	−	72,197	68,962	3,235	4.5	73,378	70,077	3,301	4.5	71,414	67,853	3,561	5.0
Oconee County	↓	35,371	33,777	1,594	4.5	35,259	33,539	1,720	4.9	34,451	32,647	1,804	5.2
Richland County	↓	201,476	192,476	9,000	4.5	201,738	192,108	9,630	4.8	198,009	186,756	11,253	5.7
Pickens County	↓	57,087	54,580	2,507	4.4	56,695	53,985	2,710	4.8	56,355	53,447	2,908	5.2
Spartanburg County	↓	142,535	136,328	6,207	4.4	141,365	134,784	6,581	4.7	139,846	132,602	7,244	5.2
York County	↓	128,749	123,238	5,511	4.3	127,141	121,301	5,840	4.6	125,656	119,239	6,417	5.1
Anderson County	↓	90,283	86,511	3,772	4.2	89,613	85,578	4,035	4.5	89,022	84,669	4,353	4.9
Berkeley County	↓	95,402	91,433	3,969	4.2	95,317	91,065	4,252	4.5	92,558	87,770	4,788	5.2
Dorchester County	↓	73,912	70,841	3,071	4.2	73,841	70,574	3,267	4.4	71,784	68,051	3,733	5.2
Jasper County	−	11,888	11,403	485	4.1	12,097	11,596	501	4.1	11,844	11,316	528	4.5
Saluda County	↓	8,951	8,582	369	4.1	9,076	8,672	404	4.5	8,926	8,468	458	5.1
Greenville County	↓	246,405	236,676	9,729	3.9	244,369	234,049	10,320	4.2	242,610	231,537	11,073	4.6
Newberry County	↓	19,225	18,470	755	3.9	19,292	18,471	821	4.3	18,803	17,897	906	4.8
Lexington County	↓	147,460	141,830	5,630	3.8	147,806	141,761	6,045	4.1	144,756	138,024	6,732	4.7
Charleston County	↓	203,031	195,474	7,557	3.7	202,868	194,817	8,051	4.0	197,224	188,296	8,928	4.5
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	372,345	357,748	14,597	3.9	372,026	356,456	15,570	4.2	361,566	344,117	17,449	4.8
Columbia MSA	↓	404,840	387,297	17,543	4.3	405,750	386,983	18,767	4.6	397,930	376,524	21,406	5.4
Florence MSA	↓	94,957	90,031	4,926	5.2	95,079	89,866	5,213	5.5	95,397	89,211	6,186	6.5
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,301,525	2,193,017	108,508	4.7	2,298,073	2,186,132	111,941	4.9	2,258,065	2,133,670	124,395	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 =