



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

South Carolina's Employment Situation October 2015

Unemployment Rate Continues to Drop Employment Gains Remain Robust

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell for the fifth consecutive month, declining from 5.7 percent in September to 5.6 percent while the number of people working in South Carolina continued to surge. This unemployment rate is the lowest level since June 2007.

In October, the number of people employed increased by 7,886 to a record level of 2,128,894 while the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 2,395 to 126,577 and the labor force reflected a modest increase of 5,491 to 2,255,471.

Since October 2014, the unemployment total has decreased by 19,155 people, and the labor force has grown by 46,977. In addition, employment rose by 66,132 over the year, the largest 12-month gain since July 1983-84.

Nationally, the unemployment rate dropped from 5.1 percent to 5.0 percent.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

The October seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased from September by 6,600 to reach a record level of 2,022,400.

- The most noticeable upswings occurred in Professional and Business Services (+6,700) and Education and Health Services (+2,700).
- Additional gains were seen in Manufacturing (+600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+500); and Government (+100).
- Financial Activities (-1,400); Leisure and Hospitality (-1,100); Other Services (-800); Construction (-600); and Information (-100) reported decreases.

Compared to a year ago, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 57,100.

- Growth was registered in Professional and Business Services (+16,200); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+11,100); Education and Health Services (+10,700); Construction (+6,200); Government (+3,800); and Other Services (+1,200).
- Drops were recorded in Financial Activities (-2,400) and Manufacturing (-800).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

From September to October, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased 13,300 to a level of 2,030,100. Professional and Business Services rose by a 6,900 jobs, as businesses prepare staffing for seasonal hiring. Additional upswings occurred in Education and Health Services (+4,100); Government (+3,700); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,800); Manufacturing (+1,000); Construction (+700); and Information (+100). The most significant loss was reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-4,200) with lesser declines occurring in Financial Activities (-1,100) and Other Services (-700).

From October 2014 to October 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 57,400. Industries marking strong annual gains were Professional and Business Services (+16,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+11,100); Education and Health Services (+10,800); Construction (+6,300); Government (+3,700); and Other Services (+1,200). Financial Activities (-2,400); Manufacturing (-800); and Natural Resources and Mining (-200) fell off over the year.

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 2015

Industry	October 2015	September 2015	October 2014	September 2015 to October 2015		October 2014 to October 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,022,400	2,015,800	1,965,300	6,600	0.33%	57,100	2.91%
Construction	89,100	89,700	82,900	-600	-0.67%	6,200	7.48%
Manufacturing	230,700	230,100	231,500	600	0.26%	-800	-0.35%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	388,400	387,900	377,100	500	0.13%	11,300	3.00%
Information	26,800	26,900	26,800	-100	-0.37%	0	0.00%
Financial Activities	94,000	95,400	96,400	-1,400	-1.49%	-2,400	-2.49%
Professional and Business Services	274,800	268,100	258,600	6,700	2.44%	16,200	6.26%
Education and Health Services	238,300	235,600	227,600	2,700	1.13%	10,700	4.70%
Leisure and Hospitality	241,500	242,600	230,400	-1,100	-0.46%	11,100	4.82%
Other Services	72,800	73,600	71,600	-800	-1.10%	1,200	1.68%
Government	362,300	362,200	358,500	100	0.03%	3,800	1.06%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
October 2015

Industry	October 2015	September 2015	October 2014	September 2015 to October 2015		October 2014 to October 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,030,100	2,016,800	1,972,700	13,300	0.66%	57,400	2.91%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,700	3,700	3,900	0	0.00%	-200	-5.13%
Construction	90,200	89,500	83,900	700	0.78%	6,300	7.51%
Manufacturing	231,000	230,000	231,800	1,000	0.43%	-800	-0.35%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	388,700	385,900	377,400	2,800	0.73%	11,300	2.99%
Information	26,500	26,400	26,500	100	0.38%	0	0.00%
Financial Activities	94,300	95,400	96,700	-1,100	-1.15%	-2,400	-2.48%
Professional and Business Services	276,700	269,800	260,300	6,900	2.56%	16,400	6.30%
Education and Health Services	240,000	235,900	229,200	4,100	1.74%	10,800	4.71%
Leisure and Hospitality	240,200	244,400	229,100	-4,200	-1.72%	11,100	4.85%
Other Services	72,700	73,400	71,500	-700	-0.95%	1,200	1.68%
Government	366,100	362,400	362,400	3,700	1.02%	3,700	1.02%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas

October 2015

Area	October 2015	September 2015	October 2014	September 2015 to October 2015		October 2014 to October 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,022,400	2,015,800	1,965,300	6,600	0.33%	57,100	2.91%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	331,600	331,500	324,700	100	0.03%	6,900	2.13%
Columbia MSA	384,800	384,000	374,300	800	0.21%	10,500	2.81%
Florence MSA	85,200	85,500	84,600	-300	-0.35%	600	0.71%
Sumter MSA	38,600	38,500	38,500	100	0.26%	100	0.26%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas

October 2015

Area	October 2015	September 2015	October 2014	September 2015 to October 2015		October 2014 to October 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,030,100	2,016,800	1,972,700	13,300	0.66%	57,400	2.91%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	332,600	332,100	325,600	500	0.15%	7,000	2.15%
Columbia MSA	387,000	383,600	376,500	3,400	0.89%	10,500	2.79%
Florence MSA	85,200	85,300	84,600	-100	-0.12%	600	0.71%
Greenville MSA	405,500	401,600	393,700	3,900	0.97%	11,800	3.00%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	73,200	72,800	72,500	400	0.55%	700	0.97%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	155,600	159,400	153,200	-3,800	-2.38%	2,400	1.57%
Spartanburg MSA	144,000	143,200	139,800	800	0.56%	4,200	3.00%
Sumter MSA	38,800	38,500	38,700	300	0.78%	100	0.26%

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

AREA		October 2015				September 2015				October 2014			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Orangeburg County	↑	39,726	35,475	4,251	10.7	39,132	35,141	3,991	10.2	38,494	33,938	4,556	11.8
Bamberg County	↑	5,811	5,214	597	10.3	5,733	5,190	543	9.5	5,645	4,966	679	12.0
Williamsburg County	↑	13,568	12,198	1,370	10.1	13,199	12,130	1,069	8.1	12,949	11,732	1,217	9.4
Marion County	-	13,206	11,900	1,306	9.9	13,209	11,900	1,309	9.9	12,861	11,506	1,355	10.5
Allendale County	-	2,993	2,702	291	9.7	2,993	2,704	289	9.7	2,924	2,576	348	11.9
Marlboro County	↑	10,275	9,301	974	9.5	10,083	9,201	882	8.7	9,917	8,864	1,053	10.6
Georgetown County	↑	26,675	24,343	2,332	8.7	26,282	24,302	1,980	7.5	25,483	23,440	2,043	8.0
Dillon County	↑	12,977	11,898	1,079	8.3	12,936	11,880	1,056	8.2	12,661	11,424	1,237	9.8
Lee County	↑	6,578	6,051	527	8.0	6,567	6,048	519	7.9	6,476	5,866	610	9.4
Chester County	↑	13,964	12,863	1,101	7.9	13,812	12,769	1,043	7.6	13,733	12,438	1,295	9.4
Fairfield County	↓	10,288	9,471	817	7.9	10,251	9,432	819	8.0	10,035	9,207	828	8.3
Barnwell County	↓	9,028	8,321	707	7.8	8,978	8,265	713	7.9	8,840	7,998	842	9.5
Edgefield County	↑	10,984	10,136	848	7.7	10,935	10,164	771	7.1	10,692	9,969	723	6.8
Clarendon County	↑	13,471	12,449	1,022	7.6	13,361	12,390	971	7.3	13,128	12,005	1,123	8.6
Hampton County	↓	8,671	8,031	640	7.4	8,689	8,033	656	7.5	8,381	7,751	630	7.5
Darlington County	↑	29,621	27,444	2,177	7.3	29,732	27,613	2,119	7.1	29,599	27,178	2,421	8.2
Calhoun County	↑	7,116	6,608	508	7.1	7,086	6,587	499	7.0	7,005	6,427	578	8.3
Union County	↓	11,786	10,946	840	7.1	11,777	10,882	895	7.6	11,587	10,617	970	8.4
Sumter County	-	43,998	40,969	3,029	6.9	43,825	40,818	3,007	6.9	43,999	40,747	3,252	7.4
Florence County	↑	64,105	59,928	4,177	6.5	64,183	60,057	4,126	6.4	64,232	59,401	4,831	7.5
Horry County	↑	134,724	125,999	8,725	6.5	137,329	128,914	8,415	6.1	133,332	123,784	9,548	7.2
Abbeville County	↓	10,892	10,200	692	6.4	10,754	10,059	695	6.5	10,604	9,776	828	7.8
Cherokee County	↓	24,233	22,679	1,554	6.4	24,022	22,416	1,606	6.7	23,634	21,735	1,899	8.0
McCormick County	↓	3,665	3,429	236	6.4	3,627	3,388	239	6.6	3,581	3,303	278	7.8
Colleton County	↓	17,503	16,393	1,110	6.3	17,385	16,253	1,132	6.5	17,021	15,799	1,222	7.2
Lancaster County	↓	35,547	33,380	2,167	6.1	35,276	33,096	2,180	6.2	34,787	32,297	2,490	7.2
Laurens County	↓	30,722	28,889	1,833	6.0	30,557	28,675	1,882	6.2	30,217	28,045	2,172	7.2
Aiken County	-	74,243	69,873	4,370	5.9	74,245	69,829	4,416	5.9	73,473	68,706	4,767	6.5
Kershaw County	↓	28,768	27,061	1,707	5.9	28,659	26,941	1,718	6.0	28,154	26,305	1,849	6.6
Richland County	↑	197,172	185,693	11,479	5.8	195,363	184,377	10,986	5.6	192,437	180,426	12,011	6.2
Chesterfield County	↓	21,990	20,742	1,248	5.7	21,879	20,600	1,279	5.8	21,438	19,971	1,467	6.8
Greenwood County	↓	32,639	30,773	1,866	5.7	32,355	30,420	1,935	6.0	31,721	29,463	2,258	7.1
Dorchester County	-	71,072	67,255	3,817	5.4	71,031	67,209	3,822	5.4	69,932	65,726	4,206	6.0
Spartanburg County	↓	138,837	131,390	7,447	5.4	138,283	130,649	7,634	5.5	136,014	127,392	8,622	6.3
Berkeley County	↓	91,599	86,706	4,893	5.3	91,620	86,641	4,979	5.4	90,325	84,725	5,600	6.2
Oconee County	↓	35,616	33,738	1,878	5.3	35,378	33,408	1,970	5.6	34,516	32,382	2,134	6.2
Pickens County	↓	56,417	53,417	3,000	5.3	56,098	52,938	3,160	5.6	55,388	51,855	3,533	6.4
Saluda County	↓	8,978	8,501	477	5.3	9,059	8,571	488	5.4	8,763	8,267	496	5.7
York County	-	124,770	118,185	6,585	5.3	123,544	117,017	6,527	5.3	122,193	114,363	7,830	6.4
Beaufort County	↓	69,551	65,918	3,633	5.2	69,421	65,592	3,829	5.5	69,201	65,153	4,048	5.8
Anderson County	↓	88,519	84,043	4,476	5.1	87,976	83,356	4,620	5.3	86,820	81,554	5,266	6.1
Lexington County	↓	142,891	136,000	6,891	4.8	142,153	135,194	6,959	4.9	139,593	132,218	7,375	5.3
Newberry County	↓	19,096	18,175	921	4.8	19,117	18,133	984	5.1	18,489	17,433	1,056	5.7
Charleston County	↓	195,018	185,922	9,096	4.7	195,065	185,616	9,449	4.8	192,011	181,850	10,161	5.3
Greenville County	↓	239,694	228,353	11,341	4.7	238,151	226,411	11,740	4.9	234,526	221,578	12,948	5.5
Jasper County	↓	11,582	11,040	542	4.7	11,548	10,961	587	5.1	11,597	10,933	664	5.7
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	357,689	339,883	17,806	5.0	357,716	339,466	18,250	5.1	352,268	332,301	19,967	5.7
Columbia MSA	-	395,213	373,334	21,879	5.5	392,571	371,102	21,469	5.5	385,987	362,850	23,137	6.0
Florence MSA	↑	93,726	87,372	6,354	6.8	93,915	87,670	6,245	6.6	93,831	86,579	7,252	7.7
Greenville -Anderson-Mauldin MSA	↓	415,352	394,702	20,650	5.0	412,782	391,380	21,402	5.2	406,951	383,032	23,919	5.9
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,255,471	2,128,894	126,577	5.6	2,249,980	2,121,008	128,972	5.7	2,208,494	2,062,762	145,732	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 =