



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

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

**For Immediate Release**

### **South Carolina's Employment Situation November 2015**

#### **Employment Gains Set New Record Unemployment Rate Continues To Fall**

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell for the sixth consecutive month, declining from 5.6 percent in October to 5.5 percent in November, a level not seen since August 2001.

The number of people working in South Carolina climbed in November, increasing by 9,147 to a record level of 2,137,493. Employment increased an estimated 71,202 people over the year, an all-time record increase for the state.

The number of unemployed individuals decreased in November by 2,743 to 123,913. Since November 2014, the level of unemployed has decreased by 22,664. The labor force increased by 6,404 to 2,261,406 people. Since November 2014, the labor force has grown substantially by nearly 48,538.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5 percent over the month.

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

November seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 5,600 over the month to reach the level of 2,024,900.

- South Carolina's most notable increases occurred in Professional and Business Services (+1,800); Construction (+1,100); and Education and Health Services (+1,000).
- Additional gains were seen in Leisure and Hospitality (+900); Manufacturing (+800); Financial Activities (+500); and Government (+500).
- Industries reporting decreases were Information (-400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-300); and Other Services (-300).

Compared to November 2014, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 52,100.

- The largest increases were reported in Professional and Business Services (+15,400); Education and Health Services (+11,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+10,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+9,200); Construction (+6,800); Government (+3,600); and Other Services (+800).

- Industries reporting declines were Financial Activities (-2,500); Manufacturing (-1,500); and Information (-800).

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

The not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment in November 2015 reported an over-the-month increase of 7,400 to a level of 2,034,400. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities rose by 4,200 jobs as the trade industry begins its seasonal hiring period. Additional upturns in employment were due to increases in Government (+2,300); Manufacturing (+1,400); Education and Health Services (+1,100); Professional and Business Services (+900); Financial Activities (+600); and Other Services (+500).

The most significant loss was reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-3,200), followed by smaller declines in Construction (-300) and Information (-100).

From November 2014 to November 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 52,500 overall in South Carolina's workforce. Industries marking strong annual gains came from Professional and Business Services (+15,500); Education and Health Services (+11,400); Leisure and Hospitality (+9,900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+9,300); Construction (+6,800); Government (+3,700); and Other Services (+800). Declines were seen in Financial Activities (-2,500); Manufacturing (-1,400); Information (-800); and Natural Resources and Mining (-200).

<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  
November 2015

| Industry                             | November<br>2015 | October<br>2015  | November<br>2014 | October 2015<br>to<br>November 2015 |              | November 2014<br>to<br>November 2015 |              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
|                                      |                  |                  |                  | #<br>Change                         | %<br>Change  | #<br>Change                          | %<br>Change  |
| <b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>      | <b>2,024,900</b> | <b>2,019,300</b> | <b>1,972,800</b> | <b>5,600</b>                        | <b>0.28%</b> | <b>52,100</b>                        | <b>2.64%</b> |
| Construction                         | 89,800           | 88,700           | 83,000           | 1,100                               | 1.22%        | 6,800                                | 8.19%        |
| Manufacturing                        | 230,900          | 230,100          | 232,400          | 800                                 | 0.35%        | -1,500                               | -0.65%       |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 387,000          | 387,300          | 377,800          | -300                                | -0.08%       | 9,200                                | 2.44%        |
| Information                          | 26,400           | 26,800           | 27,200           | -400                                | -1.52%       | -800                                 | -2.94%       |
| Financial Activities                 | 94,400           | 93,900           | 96,900           | 500                                 | 0.53%        | -2,500                               | -2.58%       |
| Professional and Business Services   | 276,100          | 274,300          | 260,700          | 1,800                               | 0.65%        | 15,400                               | 5.91%        |
| Education and Health Services        | 238,800          | 237,800          | 227,500          | 1,000                               | 0.42%        | 11,300                               | 4.97%        |
| Leisure and Hospitality              | 242,500          | 241,600          | 232,500          | 900                                 | 0.37%        | 10,000                               | 4.30%        |
| Other Services                       | 72,500           | 72,800           | 71,700           | -300                                | -0.41%       | 800                                  | 1.12%        |
| Government                           | 362,800          | 362,300          | 359,200          | 500                                 | 0.14%        | 3,600                                | 1.00%        |

# NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide  
November 2015

| Industry                             | November<br>2015 | October<br>2015  | November<br>2014 | October 2015<br>to<br>November 2015 |              | November 2014<br>to<br>November 2015 |              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
|                                      |                  |                  |                  | #<br>Change                         | %<br>Change  | #<br>Change                          | %<br>Change  |
| <b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>      | <b>2,034,400</b> | <b>2,027,000</b> | <b>1,981,900</b> | <b>7,400</b>                        | <b>0.37%</b> | <b>52,500</b>                        | <b>2.65%</b> |
| Natural Resources and Mining         | 3,700            | 3,700            | 3,900            | 0                                   | 0.00%        | -200                                 | -5.13%       |
| Construction                         | 89,500           | 89,800           | 82,700           | -300                                | -0.33%       | 6,800                                | 8.22%        |
| Manufacturing                        | 231,800          | 230,400          | 233,200          | 1,400                               | 0.61%        | -1,400                               | -0.60%       |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 391,800          | 387,600          | 382,500          | 4,200                               | 1.08%        | 9,300                                | 2.43%        |
| Information                          | 26,400           | 26,500           | 27,200           | -100                                | -0.38%       | -800                                 | -2.94%       |
| Financial Activities                 | 94,800           | 94,200           | 97,300           | 600                                 | 0.64%        | -2,500                               | -2.57%       |
| Professional and Business Services   | 277,100          | 276,200          | 261,600          | 900                                 | 0.33%        | 15,500                               | 5.93%        |
| Education and Health Services        | 240,600          | 239,500          | 229,200          | 1,100                               | 0.46%        | 11,400                               | 4.97%        |
| Leisure and Hospitality              | 237,100          | 240,300          | 227,200          | -3,200                              | -1.33%       | 9,900                                | 4.36%        |
| Other Services                       | 73,200           | 72,700           | 72,400           | 500                                 | 0.69%        | 800                                  | 1.10%        |
| Government                           | 368,400          | 366,100          | 364,700          | 2,300                               | 0.63%        | 3,700                                | 1.01%        |

# **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

## **South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas November 2015**

| Area                            | November<br>2015 | October<br>2015  | November<br>2014 | October 2015<br>to<br>November 2015 |              | November 2014<br>to<br>November 2015 |              |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
|                                 |                  |                  |                  | #<br>Change                         | %<br>Change  | #<br>Change                          | %<br>Change  |
| <b>Statewide</b>                | <b>2,024,900</b> | <b>2,019,300</b> | <b>1,972,800</b> | <b>5,600</b>                        | <b>0.28%</b> | <b>52,100</b>                        | <b>2.64%</b> |
| Charleston/North Charleston MSA | 335,100          | 332,100          | 325,300          | 3,000                               | 0.90%        | 9,800                                | 3.01%        |
| Columbia MSA                    | 386,500          | 384,600          | 375,000          | 1,900                               | 0.49%        | 11,500                               | 3.07%        |
| Florence MSA                    | 85,000           | 85,500           | 84,800           | -500                                | -0.59%       | 200                                  | 0.24%        |
| Sumter MSA                      | 38,600           | 38,600           | 38,600           | 0                                   | 0.00%        | 0                                    | 0.00%        |

# **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

## **South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas November 2015**

| Area                                    | November<br>2015 | October<br>2015  | November<br>2014 | October 2015<br>to<br>November 2015 |              | November 2014<br>to<br>November 2015 |              |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
|   |                  |                  |                  | #<br>Change                         | %<br>Change  | #<br>Change                          | %<br>Change  |
| <b>Statewide</b>                        | <b>2,034,400</b> | <b>2,027,000</b> | <b>1,981,900</b> | <b>7,400</b>                        | <b>0.37%</b> | <b>52,500</b>                        | <b>2.65%</b> |
| Charleston/North Charleston MSA         | 336,100          | 333,100          | 326,200          | 3,000                               | 0.90%        | 9,900                                | 3.03%        |
| Columbia MSA                            | 390,900          | 386,800          | 379,200          | 4,100                               | 1.06%        | 11,700                               | 3.09%        |
| Florence MSA                            | 86,200           | 85,500           | 86,000           | 700                                 | 0.82%        | 200                                  | 0.23%        |
| Greenville MSA                          | 405,400          | 405,300          | 396,000          | 100                                 | 0.02%        | 9,400                                | 2.37%        |
| Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA         | 72,500           | 72,500           | 72,600           | 0                                   | 0.00%        | -100                                 | -0.14%       |
| Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA | 154,400          | 155,700          | 152,300          | -1,300                              | -0.83%       | 2,100                                | 1.38%        |
| Spartanburg MSA                         | 145,400          | 144,300          | 141,100          | 1,100                               | 0.76%        | 4,300                                | 3.05%        |
| Sumter MSA                              | 38,800           | 38,800           | 38,800           | 0                                   | 0.00%        | 0                                    | 0.00%        |

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

| AREA                                  |   | November 2015  |                 |              |          | October 2015   |                 |              |          | November 2014  |                 |              |          |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|
|                                       |   | LABOR<br>FORCE | EMPLOY-<br>MENT | UNEMPLOYMENT |          | LABOR<br>FORCE | EMPLOY-<br>MENT | UNEMPLOYMENT |          | LABOR<br>FORCE | EMPLOY-<br>MENT | UNEMPLOYMENT |          |
|                                       |   |                |                 | LEVEL        | RATE (%) |                |                 | LEVEL        | RATE (%) |                |                 | LEVEL        | RATE (%) |
| Marion County                         | ↓ | 12,979         | 11,800          | 1,179        | 9.1      | 13,168         | 11,862          | 1,306        | 9.9      | 12,781         | 11,431          | 1,350        | 10.6     |
| Allendale County                      | ↓ | 2,919          | 2,655           | 264          | 9.0      | 2,974          | 2,685           | 289          | 9.7      | 2,904          | 2,555           | 349          | 12.0     |
| Bamberg County                        | ↓ | 5,649          | 5,140           | 509          | 9.0      | 5,775          | 5,180           | 595          | 10.3     | 5,614          | 4,932           | 682          | 12.1     |
| Orangeburg County                     | ↓ | 38,559         | 35,131          | 3,428        | 8.9      | 39,545         | 35,272          | 4,273        | 10.8     | 38,392         | 33,718          | 4,674        | 12.2     |
| Marlboro County                       | ↓ | 10,078         | 9,196           | 882          | 8.8      | 10,219         | 9,239           | 980          | 9.6      | 9,820          | 8,816           | 1,004        | 10.2     |
| Williamsburg County                   | ↓ | 13,252         | 12,085          | 1,167        | 8.8      | 13,574         | 12,142          | 1,432        | 10.5     | 12,897         | 11,671          | 1,226        | 9.5      |
| Dillon County                         | ↓ | 12,737         | 11,757          | 980          | 7.7      | 12,927         | 11,840          | 1,087        | 8.4      | 12,534         | 11,354          | 1,180        | 9.4      |
| Georgetown County                     | ↓ | 26,058         | 24,055          | 2,003        | 7.7      | 26,596         | 24,230          | 2,366        | 8.9      | 25,285         | 23,208          | 2,077        | 8.2      |
| Fairfield County                      | ↓ | 10,274         | 9,516           | 758          | 7.4      | 10,286         | 9,466           | 820          | 8.0      | 9,977          | 9,180           | 797          | 8.0      |
| Lee County                            | ↓ | 6,489          | 6,016           | 473          | 7.3      | 6,567          | 6,036           | 531          | 8.1      | 6,410          | 5,844           | 566          | 8.8      |
| Barnwell County                       | ↓ | 8,882          | 8,240           | 642          | 7.2      | 8,989          | 8,281           | 708          | 7.9      | 8,756          | 7,952           | 804          | 9.2      |
| Chester County                        | ↓ | 13,844         | 12,864          | 980          | 7.1      | 13,973         | 12,867          | 1,106        | 7.9      | 13,614         | 12,385          | 1,229        | 9.0      |
| Clarendon County                      | ↓ | 13,208         | 12,307          | 901          | 6.8      | 13,425         | 12,392          | 1,033        | 7.7      | 12,993         | 11,910          | 1,083        | 8.3      |
| Hampton County                        | ↓ | 8,474          | 7,902           | 572          | 6.8      | 8,613          | 7,973           | 640          | 7.4      | 8,346          | 7,683           | 663          | 7.9      |
| Darlington County                     | ↓ | 29,508         | 27,579          | 1,929        | 6.5      | 29,707         | 27,526          | 2,181        | 7.3      | 29,545         | 27,264          | 2,281        | 7.7      |
| Horry County                          | — | 133,227        | 124,589         | 8,638        | 6.5      | 134,767        | 126,035         | 8,732        | 6.5      | 131,761        | 121,830         | 9,931        | 7.5      |
| Union County                          | ↓ | 11,762         | 10,992          | 770          | 6.5      | 11,809         | 10,965          | 844          | 7.1      | 11,536         | 10,607          | 929          | 8.1      |
| Sumter County                         | ↓ | 43,681         | 40,922          | 2,759        | 6.3      | 44,056         | 41,009          | 3,047        | 6.9      | 43,744         | 40,605          | 3,139        | 7.2      |
| Edgefield County                      | ↓ | 10,740         | 10,086          | 654          | 6.1      | 10,988         | 10,137          | 851          | 7.7      | 10,605         | 9,891           | 714          | 6.7      |
| Calhoun County                        | ↓ | 7,052          | 6,632           | 420          | 6.0      | 7,109          | 6,604           | 505          | 7.1      | 6,949          | 6,400           | 549          | 7.9      |
| Cherokee County                       | ↓ | 23,947         | 22,543          | 1,404        | 5.9      | 24,124         | 22,576          | 1,548        | 6.4      | 23,771         | 21,651          | 2,120        | 8.9      |
| Florence County                       | ↓ | 64,125         | 60,313          | 3,812        | 5.9      | 64,286         | 60,105          | 4,181        | 6.5      | 64,203         | 59,561          | 4,642        | 7.2      |
| McCormick County                      | ↓ | 3,615          | 3,400           | 215          | 5.9      | 3,651          | 3,411           | 240          | 6.6      | 3,543          | 3,276           | 267          | 7.5      |
| Colleton County                       | ↓ | 17,297         | 16,289          | 1,008        | 5.8      | 17,440         | 16,328          | 1,112        | 6.4      | 16,844         | 15,652          | 1,192        | 7.1      |
| Abbeville County                      | ↓ | 10,719         | 10,113          | 606          | 5.7      | 10,830         | 10,144          | 686          | 6.3      | 10,510         | 9,713           | 797          | 7.6      |
| Lancaster County                      | ↓ | 35,342         | 33,394          | 1,948        | 5.5      | 35,556         | 33,391          | 2,165        | 6.1      | 34,490         | 32,142          | 2,348        | 6.8      |
| Laurens County                        | ↓ | 30,427         | 28,781          | 1,646        | 5.4      | 30,709         | 28,884          | 1,825        | 5.9      | 30,018         | 27,910          | 2,108        | 7.0      |
| Aiken County                          | ↓ | 73,619         | 69,709          | 3,910        | 5.3      | 74,239         | 69,884          | 4,355        | 5.9      | 72,998         | 68,349          | 4,649        | 6.4      |
| Chesterfield County                   | ↓ | 21,736         | 20,574          | 1,162        | 5.3      | 21,900         | 20,662          | 1,238        | 5.7      | 21,241         | 19,835          | 1,406        | 6.6      |
| Greenwood County                      | ↓ | 32,186         | 30,488          | 1,698        | 5.3      | 32,456         | 30,602          | 1,854        | 5.7      | 31,492         | 29,300          | 2,192        | 7.0      |
| Kershaw County                        | ↓ | 28,723         | 27,197          | 1,526        | 5.3      | 28,762         | 27,046          | 1,716        | 6.0      | 27,977         | 26,231          | 1,746        | 6.2      |
| Oconee County                         | ↓ | 35,259         | 33,426          | 1,833        | 5.2      | 35,441         | 33,575          | 1,866        | 5.3      | 34,287         | 32,178          | 2,109        | 6.2      |
| Richland County                       | ↓ | 197,156        | 186,995         | 10,161       | 5.2      | 197,209        | 185,589         | 11,620       | 5.9      | 191,868        | 180,229         | 11,639       | 6.1      |
| Pickens County                        | ↓ | 56,102         | 53,264          | 2,838        | 5.1      | 56,402         | 53,408          | 2,994        | 5.3      | 55,051         | 51,634          | 3,417        | 6.2      |
| Spartanburg County                    | ↓ | 138,819        | 131,953         | 6,866        | 4.9      | 139,057        | 131,623         | 7,434        | 5.3      | 135,739        | 127,356         | 8,383        | 6.2      |
| Beaufort County                       | ↓ | 68,330         | 65,062          | 3,268        | 4.8      | 68,952         | 65,327          | 3,625        | 5.3      | 68,477         | 64,494          | 3,983        | 5.8      |
| Berkeley County                       | ↓ | 91,734         | 87,362          | 4,372        | 4.8      | 91,705         | 86,818          | 4,887        | 5.3      | 89,583         | 84,158          | 5,425        | 6.1      |
| Dorchester County                     | ↓ | 71,194         | 67,748          | 3,446        | 4.8      | 71,146         | 67,341          | 3,805        | 5.3      | 69,388         | 65,266          | 4,122        | 5.9      |
| York County                           | ↓ | 124,284        | 118,309         | 5,975        | 4.8      | 124,792        | 118,224         | 6,568        | 5.3      | 121,350        | 113,832         | 7,518        | 6.2      |
| Saluda County                         | ↓ | 8,893          | 8,475           | 418          | 4.7      | 8,972          | 8,497           | 475          | 5.3      | 8,686          | 8,201           | 485          | 5.6      |
| Anderson County                       | ↓ | 87,868         | 83,786          | 4,082        | 4.6      | 88,491         | 84,029          | 4,462        | 5.0      | 86,348         | 81,244          | 5,104        | 5.9      |
| Newberry County                       | ↓ | 18,860         | 17,999          | 861          | 4.6      | 19,020         | 18,090          | 930          | 4.9      | 18,360         | 17,324          | 1,036        | 5.6      |
| Jasper County                         | ↓ | 11,402         | 10,893          | 509          | 4.5      | 11,488         | 10,950          | 538          | 4.7      | 11,414         | 10,767          | 647          | 5.7      |
| Greenville County                     | ↓ | 238,119        | 227,702         | 10,417       | 4.4      | 239,623        | 228,314         | 11,309       | 4.7      | 233,392        | 220,779         | 12,613       | 5.4      |
| Lexington County                      | ↓ | 142,942        | 136,783         | 6,159        | 4.3      | 142,815        | 135,924         | 6,891        | 4.8      | 139,091        | 131,875         | 7,216        | 5.2      |
| Charleston County                     | ↓ | 195,408        | 187,213         | 8,195        | 4.2      | 195,266        | 186,157         | 9,109        | 4.7      | 190,213        | 180,313         | 9,900        | 5.2      |
| Charleston -<br>North Charleston MSA  | ↓ | 358,336        | 342,323         | 16,013       | 4.5      | 358,117        | 340,316         | 17,801       | 5.0      | 349,184        | 329,737         | 19,447       | 5.6      |
| Columbia MSA                          | ↓ | 395,040        | 375,598         | 19,442       | 4.9      | 395,153        | 373,126         | 22,027       | 5.6      | 384,548        | 362,116         | 22,432       | 5.8      |
| Florence MSA                          | ↓ | 93,633         | 87,892          | 5,741        | 6.1      | 93,993         | 87,631          | 6,362        | 6.8      | 93,748         | 86,825          | 6,923        | 7.4      |
| Greenville - Anderson-<br>Mauldin MSA | ↓ | 412,516        | 393,533         | 18,983       | 4.6      | 415,225        | 394,635         | 20,590       | 5.0      | 404,809        | 381,567         | 23,242       | 5.7      |
| SEASONALLY ADJUSTED                   |   |                |                 |              |          |                |                 |              |          |                |                 |              |          |
| South Carolina                        | ↓ | 2,261,406      | 2,137,493       | 123,913      | 5.5      | 2,255,002      | 2,128,346       | 126,656      | 5.6      | 2,212,868      | 2,066,291       | 146,577      | 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 =