



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 March 2016

Labor Force Expansion Continues at Record Levels Unemployment Rate Moves Up

A record number of people entering the labor force pushed up South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to 5.7 percent in March from 5.5 percent in February, marking the first increase since September 2014.

More than two-thirds of the state's labor force expansion was due to employment growth. The number of individuals working increased in March by 12,079 to a record level of 2,174,788. Unemployed individuals increased 5,851 to 131,345, while the labor force set a record for the highest ever monthly increase of 17,930, totaling 2,306,133 people.

Over the past year, employment gains tallied 68,757, and the level of unemployed has decreased by 12,574. The labor force had an over-the-year growth of 56,183 people.

Nationally, March's unemployment rate increased to 5 percent from February's rate of 4.9 percent.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

Seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls in March increased 11,400 over the month to a record high level of 2,040,000.

Healthy increases were recorded in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,900); Professional and Business Services (+3,800); Construction (+1,700); and Other Services (+1,000). Additional growth occurred in Education and Health Services (+800); Information (+100); Leisure and Hospitality (+100); and Government (+100). Financial Activities remained the same, while Manufacturing (-100) saw a slight reduction.

Compared to a year ago, nonfarm jobs were up 52,800 with Professional and Business Services (+12,500) and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,500) leading the increase. Additional over-the-year growth was reflected in Education and Health Services (+8,500); Construction (+7,200); Government (+3,600); Manufacturing (+3,200); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,200); Other Services (+2,700); and Financial Activities (+400). Only Information (-200) saw a drop.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased 27,800 from February 2016 to March 2016 to total 2,035,000. Growth was concentrated in the service-providing industry with Leisure and Hospitality (+9,100) leading the way. Additional increases were seen in Professional and Business Services (+6,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+5,200); Government (+1,900); Construction (+1,800); Other Services (+1,700); Education and Health Services (+1,600); Manufacturing (+200); Information (+200); and Financial Activities (+100). Mining and Logging remained the same.

Since March 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 55,900 overall in the state's workforce. Industries leading the gain were Professional and Business Services (+12,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,200); Education and Health Services (+9,100); Construction (+7,000); Government (+5,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+4,800); Manufacturing (+2,700); Other Services (+2,400); Financial Activities (+900); and Mining and Logging (+200). Information (-200) saw a small year-over-year decline.

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.

###

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**Statewide
March 2016**

Industry	March 2016	February 2016	March 2015	February 2016 to March 2016		March 2015 to March 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,040,000	2,028,600	1,987,200	11,400	0.56%	52,800	2.66%
Construction	92,500	90,800	85,300	1,700	1.84%	7,200	8.44%
Manufacturing	237,700	237,800	234,500	-100	-0.04%	3,200	1.36%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	392,700	388,800	381,200	3,900	0.99%	11,500	3.02%
Information	26,500	26,400	26,700	100	0.38%	-200	-0.75%
Financial Activities	97,000	97,000	96,600	0	0.00%	400	0.41%
Professional and Business Services	270,200	266,400	257,700	3,800	1.41%	12,500	4.85%
Education and Health Services	241,000	240,200	232,500	800	0.33%	8,500	3.66%
Leisure and Hospitality	239,800	239,700	236,600	100	0.04%	3,200	1.35%
Other Services	76,000	75,000	73,300	1,000	1.32%	2,700	3.68%
Government	362,500	362,400	358,900	100	0.03%	3,600	1.00%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**Statewide
March 2016**

Industry	March 2016	February 2016	March 2015	February 2016 to March 2016		March 2015 to March 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	2,035,000	2,007,200	1,979,100	27,800	1.39%	55,900	2.82%
Mining and Logging	4,100	4,100	3,900	0	0.00%	200	5.13%
Construction	91,900	90,100	84,900	1,800	2.00%	7,000	8.24%
Manufacturing	237,400	237,200	234,700	200	0.08%	2,700	1.15%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	387,800	382,600	376,600	5,200	1.36%	11,200	2.97%
Information	26,400	26,200	26,600	200	0.76%	-200	-0.75%
Financial Activities	96,600	96,500	95,700	100	0.10%	900	0.94%
Professional and Business Services	268,200	262,200	255,700	6,000	2.29%	12,500	4.89%
Education and Health Services	242,200	240,600	233,100	1,600	0.67%	9,100	3.90%
Leisure and Hospitality	236,100	227,000	231,300	9,100	4.01%	4,800	2.08%
Other Services	76,000	74,300	73,600	1,700	2.29%	2,400	3.26%
Government	368,300	366,400	363,000	1,900	0.52%	5,300	1.46%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas March 2016

Area	March 2016	February 2015	March 2015	February 2016 to March 2016		March 2015 to March 2016	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,040,000	2,028,600	1,987,200	11,400	0.56%	52,800	2.66%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	339,200	337,400	330,400	1,800	0.53%	8,800	2.66%
Columbia MSA	393,300	389,700	381,400	3,600	0.92%	11,900	3.12%
Florence MSA	87,500	86,500	85,900	1,000	1.14%	1,600	1.86%
Sumter MSA	39,700	39,500	38,600	200	0.50%	1,100	2.85%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas March 2016

Area	March 2016	February 2016	March 2015	February 2016 to March 2016		March 2015 to March 2016	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,035,000	2,007,200	1,979,100	27,800	1.39%	55,900	2.82%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	337,200	333,700	328,900	3,500	1.05%	8,300	2.52%
Columbia MSA	393,200	387,800	380,800	5,400	1.39%	12,400	3.26%
Florence MSA	87,700	86,600	86,200	1,100	1.27%	1,500	1.74%
Greenville MSA	406,600	402,700	395,200	3,900	0.97%	11,400	2.88%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	75,700	74,300	73,000	1,400	1.88%	2,700	3.70%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	154,900	149,600	150,100	5,300	3.54%	4,800	3.20%
Spartanburg MSA	145,800	144,600	140,400	1,200	0.83%	5,400	3.85%
Sumter MSA	39,900	39,400	38,700	500	1.27%	1,200	3.10%

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		March 2016				February 2016				March 2015			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Allendale County	↓	2,723	2,456	267	9.8	2,685	2,418	267	9.9	2,765	2,414	351	12.7
Bamberg County	↓	5,459	4,929	530	9.7	5,398	4,854	544	10.1	5,488	4,928	560	10.2
Marion County	↓	13,025	11,818	1,207	9.3	12,883	11,613	1,270	9.9	12,730	11,460	1,270	10.0
Marlboro County	↓	9,742	8,853	889	9.1	9,651	8,721	930	9.6	9,783	8,819	964	9.9
Orangeburg County	↓	36,936	33,640	3,296	8.9	36,464	33,161	3,303	9.1	37,273	33,489	3,784	10.2
Williamsburg County	↓	13,089	11,949	1,140	8.7	12,923	11,780	1,143	8.8	12,622	11,474	1,148	9.1
Lee County	↓	6,546	6,020	526	8.0	6,474	5,938	536	8.3	6,408	5,862	546	8.5
Barnwell County	↓	8,485	7,821	664	7.8	8,408	7,720	688	8.2	8,386	7,608	778	9.3
Dillon County	↓	12,678	11,685	993	7.8	12,511	11,517	994	7.9	12,455	11,382	1,073	8.6
Georgetown County	↓	25,830	23,836	1,994	7.7	25,551	23,423	2,128	8.3	24,545	22,454	2,091	8.5
Fairfield County	↓	10,414	9,620	794	7.6	10,334	9,498	836	8.1	10,044	9,275	769	7.7
Chester County	↓	13,850	12,809	1,041	7.5	13,691	12,657	1,034	7.6	13,524	12,372	1,152	8.5
Clarendon County	↑	13,218	12,244	974	7.4	13,034	12,087	947	7.3	12,971	11,955	1,016	7.8
Union County	↓	12,008	11,126	882	7.3	11,945	11,057	888	7.4	11,576	10,651	925	8.0
Darlington County	↓	30,564	28,429	2,135	7.0	30,169	28,011	2,158	7.2	29,946	27,782	2,164	7.2
Hampton County	↓	8,217	7,639	578	7.0	8,101	7,513	588	7.3	8,225	7,475	750	9.1
Cherokee County	↑	24,010	22,389	1,621	6.8	23,700	22,110	1,590	6.7	23,498	21,801	1,697	7.2
McCormick County	↓	3,520	3,281	239	6.8	3,488	3,243	245	7.0	3,454	3,199	255	7.4
Horry County	↓	137,075	127,907	9,168	6.7	133,794	123,857	9,937	7.4	133,082	123,083	9,999	7.5
Sumter County	↑	45,725	42,726	2,999	6.6	45,330	42,394	2,936	6.5	44,264	41,282	2,982	6.7
Abbeville County	↑	10,606	9,932	674	6.4	10,437	9,800	637	6.1	10,554	9,827	727	6.9
Colleton County	↓	17,136	16,049	1,087	6.3	16,973	15,856	1,117	6.6	16,331	15,139	1,192	7.3
Calhoun County	↓	7,075	6,633	442	6.2	6,995	6,550	445	6.4	6,891	6,407	484	7.0
Edgefield County	↓	10,708	10,047	661	6.2	10,670	9,983	687	6.4	10,608	9,975	633	6.0
Laurens County	↑	31,131	29,202	1,929	6.2	30,687	28,918	1,769	5.8	30,202	28,176	2,026	6.7
Florence County	–	66,835	62,759	4,076	6.1	65,911	61,868	4,043	6.1	65,513	61,149	4,364	6.7
Lancaster County	–	36,825	34,580	2,245	6.1	36,397	34,179	2,218	6.1	35,666	33,385	2,281	6.4
Greenwood County	↑	31,831	29,939	1,892	5.9	31,280	29,522	1,758	5.6	31,712	29,667	2,045	6.4
Oconee County	–	35,332	33,295	2,037	5.8	34,888	32,863	2,025	5.8	34,129	32,202	1,927	5.6
Chesterfield County	↓	21,628	20,396	1,232	5.7	21,370	20,122	1,248	5.8	21,161	19,874	1,287	6.1
Kershaw County	–	29,654	27,949	1,705	5.7	29,252	27,594	1,658	5.7	28,617	26,934	1,683	5.9
Aiken County	–	74,241	70,070	4,171	5.6	73,728	69,588	4,140	5.6	73,513	69,234	4,279	5.8
Newberry County	↑	19,201	18,128	1,073	5.6	18,816	17,870	946	5.0	18,589	17,601	988	5.3
Pickens County	↑	57,385	54,175	3,210	5.6	56,715	53,646	3,069	5.4	55,358	52,175	3,183	5.7
Saluda County	↑	8,881	8,401	480	5.4	8,755	8,297	458	5.2	8,683	8,225	458	5.3
Beaufort County	↑	72,875	69,035	3,840	5.3	71,406	67,739	3,667	5.1	69,889	66,098	3,791	5.4
Richland County	↑	203,383	192,575	10,808	5.3	200,533	190,069	10,464	5.2	195,698	184,872	10,826	5.5
Spartanburg County	↑	143,343	135,742	7,601	5.3	142,227	134,859	7,368	5.2	137,871	129,872	7,999	5.8
Berkeley County	↑	95,001	90,082	4,919	5.2	93,930	89,117	4,813	5.1	91,997	86,938	5,059	5.5
Dorchester County	↑	73,564	69,754	3,810	5.2	72,702	69,012	3,690	5.1	71,192	67,347	3,845	5.4
York County	↑	128,313	121,649	6,664	5.2	126,733	120,240	6,493	5.1	124,219	117,280	6,939	5.6
Anderson County	↑	90,511	85,883	4,628	5.1	89,489	85,027	4,462	5.0	87,485	82,735	4,750	5.4
Jasper County	↑	11,906	11,320	586	4.9	11,688	11,133	555	4.7	11,484	10,882	602	5.2
Greenville County	↑	246,799	235,081	11,718	4.7	244,053	232,735	11,318	4.6	238,260	226,364	11,896	5.0
Charleston County	↑	201,388	192,144	9,244	4.6	199,188	190,197	8,991	4.5	195,093	185,626	9,467	4.9
Lexington County	↑	148,332	141,450	6,882	4.6	146,216	139,656	6,560	4.5	143,002	136,110	6,892	4.8
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	369,953	351,980	17,973	4.9	365,820	348,326	17,494	4.8	358,282	339,911	18,371	5.1
Columbia MSA	↑	407,739	386,628	21,111	5.2	402,085	381,664	20,421	5.1	392,935	371,823	21,112	5.4
Florence MSA	↓	97,399	91,188	6,211	6.4	96,080	89,879	6,201	6.5	95,459	88,931	6,528	6.8
Greenville -Anderson-Mauldin MSA	↑	425,826	404,341	21,485	5.0	420,944	400,326	20,618	4.9	411,305	389,450	21,855	5.3
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,306,133	2,174,788	131,345	5.7	2,288,203	2,162,709	125,494	5.5	2,249,950	2,106,031	143,919	6.4

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 =