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

For Immediate Release
Sept. 20, 2016

South Carolina's Employment Situation
August 2016

Unemployment Rate Falls to 5.1 Percent,
Fourth Consecutive Monthly Drop

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped for the fourth consecutive month to 5.1 percent in August from 5.2 percent in July.

Unemployment fell by 3,856 people to 116,998. Employment also decreased by 2,009 to 2,180,876. This resulted in a decline in the labor force of 5,865 to 2,297,874. Since August 2015, employment has increased by 54,553 along with an increase of 45,086 for the labor force. Unemployment fell by 9,467.

Nationally, the unemployment rate remained the same from July to August at 4.9 percent.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted[1])
Seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment in August increased by 5,700 over the month to a record high level of 2,060,800.

Industries experiencing employment increases were Education and Health Services (+2,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,400); Other Services (+900); Manufacturing (+400); Information (+300); Construction (+200); Financial Activities (+200); and Professional and Business Services (+100). Government employment remained the same, and Leisure and Hospitality (-400) noted a decline.

Compared to August 2015, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment increased 50,500 with upswings in Professional and Business Services (+13,100); Education and Health Services (+11,200); Government (+8,800); Construction (+5,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,500); Financial Activities (+3,700); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,100); Manufacturing (+2,000); and Other Services (+300). Information (-700) saw a dip in payroll.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted[2])
From July to August, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment tallied an increase of 1,600 to a level of 2,056,600. Historically, employment experiences growth during August as schools gear up for the fall semester. The rise was due to increases in Education and Health Services (+3,300); Government (+2,000); Other Services (+900); and Financial Activities (+100). Losses occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (-2,500); Professional and Business Services (-1,300); and Construction (-900). There was no movement in Mining and Logging; Manufacturing; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; and Information during the month of August.

Year over year, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs improved (+43,700) with growth in Professional and Business Services (+12,600); Education and Health Services (+9,400); Government (+5,300); Construction (+5,200); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,900); Financial Activities (+2,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,600); Manufacturing (+2,200); Mining and Logging (+100); and Other Services (+100). Information (-500) fell slightly.

[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 <u>not</u> been removed from these data.

###

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
August 2016

Industry	August 2016	July 2016	August 2015	July 2016 to August 2016		August 2015 to August 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	*2,060,800*	*2,055,100*	*2,010,300*	*5,700*	*0.28%*	*50,500*	*2.51%*
Construction	92,500	92,300	87,100	200	0.22%	5,400	6.20%
Manufacturing	238,400	238,000	236,400	400	0.17%	2,000	0.85%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	391,800	390,400	387,300	1,400	0.36%	4,500	1.16%
Information	26,400	26,100	27,100	300	1.14%	-700	-2.58%
Financial Activities	100,800	100,600	97,100	200	0.20%	3,700	3.81%
Professional and Business Services	276,500	276,400	263,400	100	0.04%	13,100	4.97%
Education and Health Services	247,200	244,600	236,000	2,600	1.05%	11,200	4.75%
Leisure and Hospitality	241,000	241,400	238,900	-400	-0.17%	2,100	0.88%
Other Services	74,100	73,200	73,800	900	1.21%	300	0.41%
Government	367,900	367,900	359,100	0	0.00%	8,800	2.45%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
August 2016

Industry	August 2016	July 2016	August 2015	July 2016 to August 2016		August 2015 to August 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	*2,056,600*	*2,055,000*	*2,012,900*	*1,600*	*0.08%*	*43,700*	*2.17%*
Mining and Logging	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	0.00%	100	2.44%
Construction	92,700	93,600	87,500	-900	-0.96%	5,200	5.94%
Manufacturing	238,100	238,100	235,900	0	0.00%	2,200	0.93%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	393,000	393,000	389,100	0	0.00%	3,900	1.00%
Information	26,500	26,500	27,000	0	0.00%	-500	-1.85%
Financial Activities	101,200	101,100	98,400	100	0.10%	2,800	2.85%
Professional and Business Services	276,500	277,800	263,900	-1,300	-0.47%	12,600	4.77%
Education and Health Services	244,600	241,300	235,200	3,300	1.37%	9,400	4.00%
Leisure and Hospitality	252,000	254,500	249,400	-2,500	-0.98%	2,600	1.04%
Other Services	74,200	73,300	74,100	900	1.23%	100	0.13%
Government	353,600	351,600	348,300	2,000	0.57%	5,300	1.52%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
August 2016

Area	August 2016	July 2016	August 2015	July 2016 to August 2016 # Change	July 2016 to August 2016 % Change	August 2015 to August 2016 # Change	August 2015 to August 2016 % Change
Statewide	*2,060,800*	*2,055,100*	*2,010,300*	*5,700*	*0.28%*	*50,500*	*2.51%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	344,700	345,200	335,500	-500	-0.15%	9,200	2.74%
Columbia MSA	395,000	394,200	386,700	800	0.20%	8,300	2.15%
Florence MSA	88,000	86,900	86,500	1,100	1.25%	1,500	1.73%
Sumter MSA	39,800	39,500	38,800	300	0.75%	1,000	2.58%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
August 2016

Area	August 2016	July 2016	August 2015	July 2016 to August 2016 # Change	July 2016 to August 2016 % Change	August 2015 to August 2016 # Change	August 2015 to August 2016 % Change
Statewide	*2,056,600*	*2,055,000*	*2,012,900*	*1,600*	*0.08%*	*43,700*	*2.17%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	344,700	346,200	336,300	-1,500	-0.43%	8,400	2.50%
Columbia MSA	392,800	390,800	384,000	2,000	0.51%	8,800	2.29%
Florence MSA	86,900	86,100	85,900	800	0.93%	1,000	1.16%
Greenville MSA	406,800	405,800	402,800	1,000	0.25%	4,000	0.99%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	79,000	79,800	76,700	-800	-1.00%	2,300	3.00%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	167,500	169,700	163,400	-2,200	-1.30%	4,100	2.51%
Spartanburg MSA	144,000	142,400	142,800	1,600	1.12%	1,200	0.84%
Sumter MSA	39,100	39,200	38,700	-100	-0.26%	400	1.03%

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		August 2016 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	July 2016 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	August 2015 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Bamberg County	↑	5,758	5,099	659	11.4	5,737	5,136	601	10.5	5,498	4,873	625	11.4
Orangeburg County	↑	38,453	34,100	4,353	11.3	37,962	34,318	3,644	9.6	37,335	32,799	4,536	12.1
Allendale County	↓	2,865	2,604	261	9.1	2,886	2,619	267	9.3	2,775	2,478	297	10.7
Marlboro County	↑	9,820	8,928	892	9.1	9,894	9,005	889	9.0	9,538	8,584	954	10.0
Marion County	↓	13,236	12,100	1,136	8.6	13,388	12,208	1,180	8.8	12,915	11,701	1,214	9.4
Chester County	↑	14,097	12,920	1,177	8.3	14,001	12,870	1,131	8.1	13,659	12,529	1,130	8.3
Lee County	↑	6,683	6,138	545	8.2	6,703	6,175	528	7.9	6,484	5,936	548	8.5
Barnwell County	–	8,632	7,938	694	8.0	8,686	7,995	691	8.0	8,428	7,661	767	9.1
Williamsburg County	↓	13,165	12,123	1,042	7.9	13,270	12,204	1,066	8.0	12,815	11,688	1,127	8.8
Fairfield County	↓	10,462	9,659	803	7.7	10,532	9,700	832	7.9	10,229	9,379	850	8.3
Calhoun County	↑	7,250	6,711	539	7.4	7,198	6,730	468	6.5	7,016	6,508	508	7.2
Clarendon County	↑	13,492	12,533	959	7.1	13,556	12,611	945	7.0	13,085	12,077	1,008	7.7
Dillon County	↓	12,994	12,078	916	7.0	13,097	12,148	949	7.2	12,651	11,597	1,054	8.3
Darlington County	–	30,500	28,418	2,082	6.8	30,542	28,464	2,078	6.8	30,144	27,871	2,273	7.5
Cherokee County	↑	23,756	22,198	1,558	6.6	23,887	22,347	1,540	6.4	23,183	21,529	1,654	7.1
Georgetown County	↑	26,327	24,587	1,740	6.6	26,556	24,820	1,736	6.5	25,775	23,694	2,081	8.1
Sumter County	↑	44,708	41,817	2,891	6.5	45,182	42,303	2,879	6.4	44,489	41,326	3,163	7.1
Union County	↓	11,712	10,946	766	6.5	11,727	10,940	787	6.7	11,671	10,783	888	7.6
Hampton County	↓	8,609	8,072	537	6.2	8,702	8,149	553	6.4	8,389	7,713	676	8.1
Abbeville County	↑	10,524	9,886	638	6.1	10,595	9,956	639	6.0	10,288	9,566	722	7.0
Edgefield County	↑	11,049	10,371	678	6.1	11,065	10,398	667	6.0	10,748	10,117	631	5.9
Lancaster County	↑	37,013	34,807	2,206	6.0	36,756	34,645	2,111	5.7	36,060	33,777	2,283	6.3
Colleton County	↓	17,305	16,297	1,008	5.8	17,423	16,402	1,021	5.9	16,891	15,732	1,159	6.9
Florence County	↑	65,812	62,022	3,790	5.8	65,837	62,074	3,763	5.7	65,226	61,008	4,218	6.5
Greenwood County	↑	31,786	29,954	1,832	5.8	31,990	30,204	1,786	5.6	30,907	28,940	1,967	6.4
Kershaw County	↓	29,744	28,025	1,719	5.8	29,898	28,148	1,750	5.9	28,982	27,223	1,759	6.1
McCormick County	–	3,495	3,292	203	5.8	3,515	3,310	205	5.8	3,420	3,188	232	6.8
Chesterfield County	↑	22,006	20,747	1,259	5.7	22,007	20,804	1,203	5.5	21,362	20,010	1,352	6.3
Laurens County	↑	30,879	29,133	1,746	5.7	31,062	29,318	1,744	5.6	30,606	28,684	1,922	6.3
Pickens County	–	56,894	53,680	3,214	5.6	57,233	54,048	3,185	5.6	56,252	52,939	3,313	5.9
Aiken County	↑	75,068	70,906	4,162	5.5	75,381	71,282	4,099	5.4	73,860	69,471	4,389	5.9
Oconee County	–	35,457	33,504	1,953	5.5	35,711	33,745	1,966	5.5	34,433	32,427	2,006	5.8
Horry County	↑	144,608	136,812	7,796	5.4	147,473	139,870	7,603	5.2	141,551	132,950	8,601	6.1
Richland County	↑	201,326	190,452	10,874	5.4	202,342	191,599	10,743	5.3	196,949	185,525	11,424	5.8
Spartanburg County	↓	140,892	133,360	7,532	5.3	140,992	133,374	7,618	5.4	139,450	131,413	8,037	5.8
Anderson County	↑	89,837	85,197	4,640	5.2	90,417	85,830	4,587	5.1	88,828	83,989	4,839	5.4
York County	↑	128,505	121,840	6,665	5.2	127,804	121,280	6,524	5.1	125,243	118,366	6,877	5.5
Beaufort County	↑	75,547	71,712	3,835	5.1	76,679	72,898	3,781	4.9	73,258	69,260	3,998	5.5
Berkeley County	↑	95,692	90,913	4,779	5.0	96,932	92,269	4,663	4.8	93,498	88,434	5,064	5.4
Dorchester County	↑	74,164	70,493	3,671	4.9	75,101	71,517	3,584	4.8	72,503	68,555	3,948	5.4
Newberry County	↑	19,664	18,715	949	4.8	19,753	18,826	927	4.7	18,998	17,959	1,039	5.5
Saluda County	↑	9,365	8,915	450	4.8	9,350	8,915	435	4.7	9,025	8,559	466	5.2
Greenville County	↑	244,404	232,813	11,591	4.7	245,965	234,592	11,373	4.6	241,607	229,601	12,006	5.0
Jasper County	↓	12,446	11,855	591	4.7	12,567	11,970	597	4.8	12,056	11,445	611	5.1
Charleston County	↑	203,723	194,526	9,197	4.5	206,051	196,981	9,070	4.4	198,894	189,176	9,718	4.9
Lexington County	↑	147,736	141,061	6,675	4.5	148,188	141,702	6,486	4.4	144,347	137,196	7,151	5.0
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	373,579	355,932	17,647	4.7	378,084	360,767	17,317	4.6	364,895	346,165	18,730	5.1
Columbia MSA	↑	405,883	384,823	21,060	5.2	407,508	386,794	20,714	5.1	396,548	374,390	22,158	5.6
Florence MSA	–	96,312	90,440	5,872	6.1	96,379	90,538	5,841	6.1	95,370	88,879	6,491	6.8
Greenville -Anderson-Mauldin MSA	↑	422,014	400,823	21,191	5.0	424,677	403,788	20,889	4.9	417,293	395,213	22,080	5.3
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,297,874	2,180,876	116,998	5.1	2,303,739	2,182,885	120,854	5.2	2,252,788	2,126,323	126,465	5.6

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 =