



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **South Carolina's Employment Situation March 2014**

#### *Unemployment Rate Trend Continues Downward Employment Hits Highest Level Ever*

In March, South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.5 percent from February's rate of 5.7 percent. The last time the Palmetto State's rate was at this level was in March 2008. From February to March 2014, the number of unemployed persons declined by 5,077, to a level of 119,058.

The estimated number of employed persons in March was 2,046,002, up 6,560 since February. This is the eighth consecutive monthly increase and marks a state historic employment high. From March 2013 to March 2014, an estimated 32,555 people have found work.

The labor force increased slightly in March, up by 1,483 to 2,165,060. Since March 2013 the labor force has declined by nearly 23,982 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.7 percent in March.

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

March's seasonally adjusted, non-farm payrolls increased by 10,200 over the month, to reach the level of 1,922,400. This over-the-month change is the first employment increase since December 2013.

- Gains were reported in Professional and Business Services (+3,900); Construction (+2,500); Education and Health Services (+1,900); Leisure and Hospitality (+800); and Manufacturing (+500), with smaller increases in Other Services (+400); Government (+200); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+100).
- A decrease occurred only in Financial Activities (-100), and Information remained flat.

Since March 2013, seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs were up 37,600.

- Healthy increases were seen in Leisure and Hospitality (+9,200); Professional and Business Services (+8,700); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+5,900); Education and Health Services (+5,500); Manufacturing (+5,400); and Construction (+4,500), with a small gain in Other Services (+200).
- Government (-1,000); Financial Activities (-500); and Information (-200) experienced losses.

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

The not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment in March increased by 26,000 over the month to 1,917,100. This increase is typical as many private businesses increase hiring at the start of spring. Gains were in Leisure and Hospitality (+9,300); Professional and Business Services (+4,400); Government (+4,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,300); Construction (+2,100); Education and Health Services (+1,700); Manufacturing (+900); Other Services (+800); and Financial Activities (+200). No industries reported losses since last month.

Since March 2013, jobs were up 39,400 overall with gains in Leisure and Hospitality (+11,400); Professional and Business Services (+8,000); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+6,000); Education and Health Services (+6,000); Manufacturing (+5,100); and Construction (+3,500). There were modest losses over the year in Information (-200); Government (-200); Financial Activities (-100); Natural Resources and Mining (-100).

<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.

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**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**Statewide  
March 2014**

INDUSTRY	March 2014	February 2014	March 2013	February 2014 to March 2014		March 2013 to March 2014	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	1,922,600	1,912,400	1,885,000	10,200	0.53%	37,600	1.96%
Construction	83,500	81,000	79,000	2,500	2.99%	4,500	5.39%
Manufacturing	228,700	228,200	223,300	500	0.22%	5,400	2.36%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	364,400	364,300	358,500	100	0.03%	5,900	1.62%
Information	26,200	26,200	26,400	0	0.00%	-200	-0.76%
Financial Activities	94,700	94,800	95,200	-100	-0.11%	-500	-0.53%
Professional and Business Services	247,100	243,200	238,400	3,900	1.58%	8,700	3.52%
Education and Health Services	222,600	220,700	217,100	1,900	0.85%	5,500	2.47%
Leisure and Hospitality	228,600	227,800	219,400	800	0.35%	9,200	4.02%
Other Services	70,700	70,300	70,500	400	0.57%	200	0.28%
Government	352,400	352,200	353,400	200	0.06%	-1,000	-0.28%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**Statewide  
March 2014**

INDUSTRY	March 2014	February 2014	March 2013	February 2014 to March 2014		March 2013 to March 2014	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	1,917,100	1,891,100	1,877,700	26,000	1.37%	39,400	2.10%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,700	3,700	3,800	0	0.00%	-100	-2.63%
Construction	82,100	80,000	78,600	2,100	2.63%	3,500	4.45%
Manufacturing	228,800	227,900	223,700	900	0.39%	5,100	2.28%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	360,700	358,400	354,700	2,300	0.64%	6,000	1.69%
Information	26,200	26,200	26,400	0	0.00%	-200	-0.76%
Financial Activities	94,300	94,100	94,400	200	0.21%	-100	-0.11%
Professional and Business Services	244,200	239,800	236,200	4,400	1.83%	8,000	3.39%
Education and Health Services	223,600	221,900	217,600	1,700	0.77%	6,000	2.76%
Leisure and Hospitality	224,900	215,600	213,500	9,300	4.31%	11,400	5.34%
Other Services	70,700	69,900	70,700	800	1.14%	0	0.00%
Government	357,900	353,600	358,100	4,300	1.22%	-200	-0.06%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas  
March 2014**

AREA	March 2014	February 2014	March 2013	February 2014 to March 2014		March 2013 to March 2014	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	1,922,600	1,912,400	1,885,000	10,200	0.53%	37,600	1.96%
Anderson MSA	66,500	65,800	63,200	700	1.05%	3,300	4.96%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	313,000	310,800	308,600	2,200	0.70%	4,400	1.41%
Columbia MSA	364,100	362,500	358,900	1,600	0.44%	5,200	1.43%
Florence MSA	85,000	85,000	83,900	-	0.00%	1,100	1.29%
Greenville MSA	318,000	315,400	309,300	2,600	0.82%	8,700	2.74%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	120,500	120,500	118,600	-	0.00%	1,900	1.58%
Spartanburg MSA	130,000	130,200	127,000	(200)	-0.15%	3,000	2.31%
Sumter MSA	38,300	38,200	37,700	100	0.26%	600	1.57%

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

**South Carolina & Metropolitan (Not Seasonally Adjusted)  
March 2014**

AREA	March 2014	February 2014	March 2013	February 2014 to March 2014		March 2013 to March 2014	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	1,917,100	1,891,100	1,877,700	26,000	1.37%	39,400	2.10%
Anderson MSA	66,300	65,300	63,200	1,000	1.53%	3,100	4.91%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	310,600	306,900	307,200	3,700	1.21%	3,400	1.11%
Columbia MSA	363,700	360,000	358,600	3,700	1.03%	5,100	1.42%
Florence MSA	85,400	84,900	84,200	500	0.59%	1,200	1.43%
Greenville MSA	317,800	314,800	309,000	3,000	0.95%	8,800	2.85%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	116,700	112,100	114,000	4,600	4.10%	2,700	2.37%
Spartanburg MSA	130,500	129,900	127,200	600	0.46%	3,300	2.59%
Sumter MSA	38,400	38,000	37,900	400	1.05%	500	1.32%

**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 2014				February 2014				March 2013			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Marion County	↓	11,095	9,941	1,154	10.4	10,904	9,751	1,153	10.6	11,366	9,599	1,767	15.5
Allendale County	↓	3,119	2,806	313	10.0	3,071	2,750	321	10.5	3,198	2,745	453	14.2
Bamberg County	↓	5,541	5,039	502	9.1	5,456	4,954	502	9.2	5,837	5,079	758	13.0
Barnwell County	↓	8,096	7,383	713	8.8	8,024	7,291	733	9.1	8,238	7,161	1,077	13.1
Marlboro County	↓	11,030	10,072	958	8.7	10,915	9,939	976	8.9	11,574	10,071	1,503	13.0
Dillon County	↓	12,302	11,301	1,001	8.1	12,135	11,116	1,019	8.4	12,610	11,103	1,507	12.0
Orangeburg County	–	38,693	35,562	3,131	8.1	38,115	35,021	3,094	8.1	40,892	36,236	4,656	11.4
Clarendon County	↓	11,939	11,014	925	7.7	11,754	10,840	914	7.8	12,113	10,731	1,382	11.4
McCormick County	↓	3,238	2,990	248	7.7	3,203	2,953	250	7.8	3,320	2,957	363	10.9
Union County	↓	11,553	10,688	865	7.5	11,450	10,573	877	7.7	11,935	10,522	1,413	11.8
Chester County	↓	14,623	13,536	1,087	7.4	14,492	13,368	1,124	7.8	15,057	13,322	1,735	11.5
Hampton County	↓	7,543	6,984	559	7.4	7,420	6,857	563	7.6	7,623	6,806	817	10.7
Williamsburg County	↓	15,279	14,147	1,132	7.4	15,066	13,889	1,177	7.8	15,342	13,755	1,587	10.3
Fairfield County	↓	10,071	9,391	680	6.8	10,034	9,333	701	7.0	10,292	9,274	1,018	9.9
Colleton County	–	16,809	15,687	1,122	6.7	16,555	15,440	1,115	6.7	16,719	15,036	1,683	10.1
York County	↓	112,759	105,193	7,566	6.7	112,082	104,385	7,697	6.9	113,756	102,783	10,973	9.6
Cherokee County	↑	25,174	23,523	1,651	6.6	24,895	23,269	1,626	6.5	25,584	23,082	2,502	9.8
Chesterfield County	↓	18,517	17,306	1,211	6.5	18,270	17,050	1,220	6.7	18,914	16,998	1,916	10.1
Horry County	↓	124,928	116,794	8,134	6.5	121,587	112,862	8,725	7.2	125,992	114,501	11,491	9.1
Edgefield County	↓	10,767	10,074	693	6.4	10,813	10,080	733	6.8	11,073	10,197	876	7.9
Lee County	↓	7,847	7,342	505	6.4	7,757	7,235	522	6.7	8,016	7,244	772	9.6
Abbeville County	↑	10,780	10,098	682	6.3	10,614	9,957	657	6.2	10,944	9,948	996	9.1
Darlington County	↑	29,652	27,796	1,856	6.3	29,522	27,690	1,832	6.2	30,268	27,589	2,679	8.9
Florence County	↑	62,196	58,281	3,915	6.3	61,894	58,058	3,836	6.2	63,111	57,847	5,264	8.3
Lancaster County	–	33,353	31,250	2,103	6.3	32,964	30,876	2,088	6.3	33,589	30,403	3,186	9.5
Sumter County	↑	44,076	41,361	2,715	6.2	43,694	41,110	2,584	5.9	44,613	40,776	3,837	8.6
Greenwood County	↑	30,491	28,629	1,862	6.1	30,045	28,246	1,799	6.0	30,692	27,905	2,787	9.1
Georgetown County	↓	29,048	27,294	1,754	6.0	28,613	26,763	1,850	6.5	28,201	25,706	2,495	8.8
Oconee County	–	31,432	29,647	1,785	5.7	31,046	29,272	1,774	5.7	31,136	28,747	2,389	7.7
Calhoun County	↑	6,365	6,013	352	5.5	6,306	5,976	330	5.2	6,541	5,937	604	9.2
Aiken County	↓	75,391	71,359	4,032	5.3	75,943	71,399	4,544	6.0	77,945	72,232	5,713	7.3
Richland County	↑	182,256	172,618	9,638	5.3	180,560	171,562	8,998	5.0	183,555	170,461	13,094	7.1
Laurens County	↑	29,806	28,243	1,563	5.2	29,617	28,103	1,514	5.1	29,677	27,497	2,180	7.3
Berkeley County	↑	86,361	82,023	4,338	5.0	85,501	81,391	4,110	4.8	86,796	81,130	5,666	6.5
Spartanburg County	↑	138,479	131,501	6,978	5.0	138,053	131,375	6,678	4.8	138,550	128,359	10,191	7.4
Beaufort County	↑	65,370	62,200	3,170	4.8	64,370	61,389	2,981	4.6	62,115	57,964	4,151	6.7
Newberry County	↑	17,877	17,017	860	4.8	17,586	16,773	813	4.6	18,209	16,941	1,268	7.0
Anderson County	↑	87,228	83,144	4,084	4.7	86,313	82,436	3,877	4.5	85,766	79,887	5,879	6.9
Jasper County	↑	10,580	10,081	499	4.7	10,416	9,950	466	4.5	10,163	9,394	769	7.6
Kershaw County	↓	29,075	27,709	1,366	4.7	28,916	27,540	1,376	4.8	29,220	27,363	1,857	6.4
Saluda County	↑	8,856	8,443	413	4.7	8,786	8,391	395	4.5	8,902	8,337	565	6.3
Dorchester County	↑	68,780	65,582	3,198	4.6	68,068	65,077	2,991	4.4	69,275	64,868	4,407	6.4
Pickens County	↑	57,166	54,555	2,611	4.6	56,777	54,284	2,493	4.4	56,779	53,113	3,666	6.5
Charleston County	↑	176,800	169,043	7,757	4.4	175,219	167,741	7,478	4.3	177,716	167,202	10,514	5.9
Greenville County	↑	230,297	220,235	10,062	4.4	228,497	219,142	9,355	4.1	228,023	214,417	13,606	6.0
Lexington County	↑	134,977	129,246	5,731	4.2	133,805	128,455	5,350	4.0	135,426	127,631	7,795	5.8
Charleston MSA	↑	331,942	316,649	15,293	4.6	328,788	314,209	14,579	4.4	333,786	313,199	20,587	6.2
Columbia MSA	↑	371,600	353,420	18,180	4.9	368,408	351,258	17,150	4.7	373,938	349,004	24,934	6.7
Florence MSA	↑	91,848	86,077	5,771	6.3	91,416	85,748	5,668	6.2	93,379	85,436	7,943	8.5
Greenville MSA	↑	317,269	303,033	14,236	4.5	314,891	301,529	13,362	4.2	314,479	295,027	19,452	6.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,165,060	2,046,002	119,058	5.5	2,163,577	2,039,442	124,135	5.7	2,189,042	2,013,447	175,595	8.0

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 =