



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**  
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### **South Carolina's Employment Situation** **March 2015**

#### **Labor Force Continues To Rise, Employment Sets Another Record**

The number of South Carolinians working in March increased 5,838 and reached another historic high with an estimated 2,096,110 people. March marks the 64<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of employment growth in the Palmetto State.

The state's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate rose modestly to 6.7 percent in March from 6.6 percent in February, as the labor force expanded for the 14th consecutive month. The labor force numbered 2,245,987 people, an increase of 7,536 over the month. During the first quarter of 2015, the number of people entering the labor force marked an all-time high. The vast majority of the people are finding work. The estimated number of unemployed persons was 149,877, showing a slight increase since February of 1,698.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.5 percent.

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

Seasonally adjusted, non-farm payrolls in March decreased by 3,400 over the month to a level of 1,984,800.

- South Carolina's most prominent increases occurred in Construction (+1,100) with additional gains in Education and Health Services (+700) and Government (+100).
- Industries reporting declines were Leisure and Hospitality (-2,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,500); Professional and Business Services (-700); Financial Activities (-500); Manufacturing (-200); and Other Services (-200).

Compared to March 2014, seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 49,300.

- The industries with large increases over the year were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+9,300); Professional and Business Services (+8,900); Leisure and Hospitality (+6,700); Education and Health Services (+6,600); Construction (+5,900); Government (+5,800); Manufacturing (+4,500); and Other Services (+1,200).
- Modest gains were made in Information (+200) and Financial Activities (+100).

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

The not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment in March increased 15,500 over the month to 1,979,900. Growth was reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+6,900); Professional and Business Services (+1,900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,600); Government (+1,500); Education and Health Services (+1,400); and Construction (+1,300). A loss occurred in Financial Activities (-100).

From March 2014 to March 2015, not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 51,100. Strong annual gains came from Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+10,700); Leisure and Hospitality (+8,200); Professional and Business Services (+8,100); Education and Health Services (+7,100); Government (+6,200); Construction (+5,000); and Manufacturing (+3,900).

**<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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**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**Statewide  
March 2015**

Industry	March 2015	February 2015	March 2014	February 2015 to March 2015		March 2014 to March 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<i>Total Nonfarm Employment</i>	1,984,800	1,988,200	1,935,500	-3,400	-0.17%	49,300	2.55%
Construction	87,300	86,200	81,400	1,100	1.26%	5,900	7.25%
Manufacturing	232,200	232,400	227,700	-200	-0.09%	4,500	1.98%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	379,400	380,900	370,100	-1,500	-0.40%	9,300	2.51%
Information	26,400	26,400	26,200	0	0.00%	200	0.76%
Financial Activities	96,300	96,800	96,200	-500	-0.52%	100	0.10%
Professional and Business Services	261,000	261,700	252,100	-700	-0.27%	8,900	3.53%
Education and Health Services	230,900	230,200	224,300	700	0.30%	6,600	2.94%
Leisure and Hospitality	234,500	236,900	227,800	-2,400	-1.02%	6,700	2.94%
Other Services	72,800	73,000	71,600	-200	-0.27%	1,200	1.68%
Government	360,100	360,000	354,300	100	0.03%	5,800	1.64%

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

**Statewide  
March 2015**

Industry	March 2015	February 2015	March 2014	February 2015 to March 2015		March 2014 to March 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<i>Total Nonfarm Employment</i>	1,979,900	1,964,400	1,928,800	15,500	0.79%	51,100	2.65%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,900	3,700	3,800	200	5.41%	100	2.63%
Construction	86,200	84,900	81,200	1,300	1.53%	5,000	6.16%
Manufacturing	231,900	231,700	228,000	200	0.09%	3,900	1.71%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	376,800	375,200	366,100	1,600	0.43%	10,700	2.92%
Information	26,500	26,400	26,100	100	0.38%	400	1.53%
Financial Activities	95,900	96,000	95,200	-100	-0.10%	700	0.74%
Professional and Business Services	258,900	257,000	250,800	1,900	0.74%	8,100	3.23%
Education and Health Services	232,000	230,600	224,900	1,400	0.61%	7,100	3.16%
Leisure and Hospitality	230,300	223,400	222,100	6,900	3.09%	8,200	3.69%
Other Services	72,600	72,100	71,900	500	0.69%	700	0.97%
Government	364,900	363,400	358,700	1,500	0.41%	6,200	1.73%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas  
March 2015**

Area*	March 2015	February 2015	March 2014	February 2015 to March 2015		March 2014 to March 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	1,984,800	1,988,200	1,935,500	-3,400	-0.17%	49,300	2.55%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	328,000	328,700	318,200	-700	-0.21%	9,800	3.08%
Columbia MSA	378,300	380,100	371,900	-1,800	-0.48%	6,400	1.72%
Florence MSA	85,200	85,900	84,400	-700	-0.82%	800	0.95%
Sumter MSA	38,500	38,900	38,000	-400	-1.04%	500	1.32%

*\*As a result of the new Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) redefinition, there are only four South Carolina MSAs publishable under nonfarm, seasonally adjusted employment. MSAs are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and are the result of the latest published standards from Census Bureau data. (The standards for defining the areas are reviewed and revised once every 10 years prior to each decennial census). Therefore, with the release of the 2014 benchmark, Current Employment Statistics will incorporate the updates to area definitions based on the new standards from the 2010 Census. As a result of the new standards, breaks have been created in the time series for these areas. Due to the breaks in the time series, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will be unable to publish all of the redefined areas on a seasonally adjusted basis. The South Carolina areas based on the 2010 standards and Census Bureau data were defined in February 2013.*

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

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas  
March 2015**

Area**	March 2015	February 2015	March 2014	February 2015 to March 2015		March 2014 to March 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	1,979,900	1,964,400	1,928,800	15,500	0.79%	51,100	2.65%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	326,200	324,500	316,600	1,700	0.52%	9,600	3.03%
Columbia MSA	377,600	376,600	371,700	1,000	0.27%	5,900	1.59%
Florence MSA	85,400	85,600	84,700	-200	-0.23%	700	0.83%
Greenville MSA	394,600	393,100	385,400	1,500	0.38%	9,200	2.39%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	73,300	71,900	70,400	1,400	1.95%	2,900	4.12%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	151,000	146,600	146,100	4,400	3.00%	4,900	3.35%
Spartanburg MSA	140,800	140,500	137,400	300	0.21%	3,400	2.47%
Sumter MSA	38,700	38,800	38,200	-100	-0.26%	500	1.31%

**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.

**\*\*As a result of the MSAs redefinition, a new area has been defined, and changes have occurred in three South Carolina not-seasonally adjusted MSAs. The new MSA is Hilton Head Island-Bluffton. The changed MSAs are as follows: Greenville MSA now incorporates Anderson County, thereby eliminating the Anderson MSA; Spartanburg now includes Union County; and Myrtle Beach Conway-North Myrtle Beach now includes Brunswick County, N.C.**

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

AREA	March 2015					February 2015					March 2014				
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT			LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT			LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		
			LEVEL	RATE (%)				LEVEL	RATE (%)				LEVEL	RATE (%)	
Allendale County	↓	2,970	2,600	370	12.5	2,953	2,555	398	13.5		2,820	2,493	327	11.6	
Bamberg County	↓	5,629	5,035	594	10.6	5,609	4,959	650	11.6		5,583	5,026	557	10.0	
Orangeburg County	↓	38,325	34,355	3,970	10.4	38,301	33,916	4,385	11.4		37,543	34,064	3,479	9.3	
Marion County	↓	12,938	11,611	1,327	10.3	12,973	11,454	1,519	11.7		12,774	11,497	1,277	10.0	
Marlboro County	↓	10,034	9,026	1,008	10.0	10,018	8,916	1,102	11.0		10,176	9,127	1,049	10.3	
Barnwell County	↓	8,946	8,126	820	9.2	8,940	8,027	913	10.2		8,504	7,714	790	9.3	
Williamsburg County	↓	13,095	11,894	1,201	9.2	13,119	11,767	1,352	10.3		12,336	11,109	1,227	9.9	
Hampton County	↓	8,607	7,824	783	9.1	8,538	7,682	856	10.0		8,038	7,438	600	7.5	
Dillon County	↓	12,669	11,547	1,122	8.9	12,655	11,396	1,259	9.9		12,349	11,236	1,113	9.0	
Chester County	↓	13,801	12,595	1,206	8.7	13,833	12,501	1,332	9.6		13,437	12,206	1,231	9.2	
Lee County	↓	6,497	5,929	568	8.7	6,484	5,882	602	9.3		6,295	5,768	527	8.4	
Georgetown County	↓	25,688	23,558	2,130	8.3	25,554	23,143	2,411	9.4		24,027	22,050	1,977	8.2	
Union County	↓	11,702	10,736	966	8.3	11,782	10,698	1,084	9.2		11,484	10,528	956	8.3	
Clarendon County	↓	13,155	12,074	1,081	8.2	13,097	11,920	1,177	9.0		12,636	11,632	1,004	7.9	
Fairfield County	↓	10,067	9,273	794	7.9	10,108	9,233	875	8.7		9,953	9,128	825	8.3	
Horry County	↓	132,848	122,642	10,206	7.7	131,064	119,063	12,001	9.2		128,282	119,079	9,203	7.2	
Darlington County	↓	29,774	27,532	2,242	7.5	30,089	27,557	2,532	8.4		29,357	27,207	2,150	7.3	
McCormick County	↓	3,605	3,333	272	7.5	3,599	3,290	309	8.6		3,470	3,207	263	7.6	
Cherokee County	↓	23,874	22,130	1,744	7.3	23,863	21,934	1,929	8.1		23,481	21,626	1,855	7.9	
Colleton County	↓	17,112	15,869	1,243	7.3	16,978	15,663	1,315	7.7		16,250	15,003	1,247	7.7	
Calhoun County	↓	6,953	6,449	504	7.2	6,962	6,408	554	8.0		6,818	6,329	489	7.2	
Sumter County	↓	44,101	40,987	3,114	7.1	44,378	41,050	3,328	7.5		43,638	40,642	2,996	6.9	
Abbeville County	↓	10,650	9,903	747	7.0	10,588	9,792	796	7.5		10,384	9,620	764	7.4	
Florence County	↓	64,611	60,089	4,522	7.0	64,986	60,151	4,835	7.4		63,810	59,546	4,264	6.7	
Laurens County	↓	30,284	28,192	2,092	6.9	30,289	28,023	2,266	7.5		29,493	27,582	1,911	6.5	
Greenwood County	↓	32,083	29,936	2,147	6.7	31,912	29,614	2,298	7.2		31,111	29,050	2,061	6.6	
Lancaster County	↓	34,966	32,636	2,330	6.7	34,885	32,379	2,506	7.2		34,008	31,637	2,371	7.0	
Chesterfield County	↓	21,481	20,133	1,348	6.3	21,347	19,887	1,460	6.8		20,758	19,383	1,375	6.6	
Edgefield County	↓	10,702	10,035	667	6.2	10,609	9,890	719	6.8		10,331	9,665	666	6.4	
Kershaw County	↓	28,241	26,505	1,736	6.1	28,235	26,389	1,846	6.5		27,679	26,095	1,584	5.7	
Aiken County	↓	74,209	69,739	4,470	6.0	73,741	68,957	4,784	6.5		71,815	67,569	4,246	5.9	
Pickens County	↓	55,519	52,213	3,306	6.0	55,387	51,945	3,442	6.2		54,216	51,185	3,031	5.6	
Spartanburg County	↓	137,355	129,063	8,292	6.0	137,523	128,675	8,848	6.4		134,398	126,632	7,766	5.8	
York County	↓	122,847	115,620	7,227	5.9	122,618	114,753	7,865	6.4		119,481	112,233	7,248	6.1	
Berkeley County	↓	90,846	85,620	5,226	5.8	90,980	85,282	5,698	6.3		88,487	83,650	4,837	5.5	
Oconee County	↓	34,789	32,768	2,021	5.8	34,617	32,403	2,214	6.4		33,395	31,412	1,983	5.9	
Richland County	↓	194,059	182,716	11,343	5.8	194,407	182,338	12,069	6.2		191,111	180,704	10,407	5.4	
Anderson County	↓	87,148	82,233	4,915	5.6	87,093	81,841	5,252	6.0		85,188	80,603	4,585	5.4	
Beaufort County	↓	69,743	65,841	3,902	5.6	68,703	64,486	4,217	6.1		66,698	63,296	3,402	5.1	
Dorchester County	↓	70,314	66,353	3,961	5.6	70,290	66,066	4,224	6.0		68,389	64,795	3,594	5.3	
Saluda County	↓	8,692	8,209	483	5.6	8,618	8,110	508	5.9		8,395	7,938	457	5.4	
Newberry County	↓	18,629	17,608	1,021	5.5	18,469	17,386	1,083	5.9		17,974	17,014	960	5.3	
Jasper County	↓	11,479	10,859	620	5.4	11,253	10,584	669	5.9		10,986	10,398	588	5.4	
Greenville County	↓	235,828	223,551	12,277	5.2	235,677	222,548	13,129	5.6		230,354	219,235	11,119	4.8	
Charleston County	↓	192,480	182,720	9,760	5.1	192,238	181,644	10,594	5.5		186,954	178,233	8,721	4.7	
Lexington County	↓	140,445	133,310	7,135	5.1	140,422	132,791	7,631	5.4		137,792	131,455	6,337	4.6	
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	353,640	334,693	18,947	5.4	353,508	332,992	20,516	5.8		343,830	326,678	17,152	5.0	
Columbia MSA	↓	388,457	366,462	21,995	5.7	388,752	365,269	23,483	6.0		381,748	361,649	20,099	5.3	
Florence MSA	↓	94,385	87,621	6,764	7.2	95,075	87,708	7,367	7.7		93,167	86,753	6,414	6.9	
Greenville - Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	408,779	386,189	22,590	5.5	408,446	384,357	24,089	5.9		399,251	378,605	20,646	5.2	
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED															
South Carolina	↑	2,245,987	2,096,110	149,877	6.7	2,238,451	2,090,272	148,179	6.6		2,172,148	2,039,978	132,170	6.1	

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 =