



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### NEWS RELEASE

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

#### *Employment Growth Remains Vigorous; Labor Force Expansion Continues*

South Carolina's economic progress continued to impact employment and labor force estimates in May. The number of working South Carolinians reached another historic high to an estimated 2,109,984 people. 65,006 people have found work since May 2014.

The labor force increased by 7,459 people in May to 2,263,293, extending a growth trend to sixteen consecutive months. Over the last twelve months, the labor force has expanded by 84,003 people.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly to 6.8 percent in May from 6.7 percent in April, as the number of unemployed persons increased by 1,856 to 153,309. Since May 2014, the number of unemployed people has increased by 18,997 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased from 5.4 percent in April to May's estimate of 5.5 percent.

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

May's seasonally adjusted, non-farm payrolls decreased by 4,900 over the month to a level of 1,991,900.

- South Carolina's most noticeable decreases occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-3,200); Construction (-1,800); Financial Activities (-1,200); Professional and Business Services (-800); Leisure and Hospitality (-200); and Government (-200).
- Industries showing increases were reported in Manufacturing (+800); Education and Health Services (+800); Other Services (+600); and Information (+300).

Compared to May 2014, seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 46,600.

- The largest growth was reported in Professional and Business Services (+12,300); Education and Health Services (+8,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+7,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+5,700); Government (+4,200); Manufacturing (+4,000); Construction (+3,900); and Other Services (+1,800).
- Information (+200) had a slight increase over the year while Financial Activities (-1,300) declined.

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

The not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment in May reported an over the month increase of 7,100 to a record level of 2,011,400. Growth was concentrated in the service-providing industries. The most prominent progress was in the Leisure and Hospitality (+4,800) sector with the start of tourism season. Additional boosts were seen in Professional and Business Services (+2,300) with minor gains in Other Services (+700); Manufacturing (+600); and Information (+400). Modest losses occurred in Construction (-800); Government (-700); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-200).

From May 2014 to May 2015, not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 45,600 overall in South Carolina. Industries marking strong annual gains were Professional and Business Services (+12,600); Education and Health Services (+8,100); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+7,700). Noticeable increases were also reported were in Leisure and Hospitality (+5,700); Government (+4,500); Construction (+4,100); Manufacturing (+3,000); Other Services (+1,000); and Information (+300). Losses occurred in Financial Activities (-1,300) and 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  
May 2015**

Industry	May 2015	April 2015	May 2014	April 2015 to May 2015		May 2014 to May 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<i>Total Nonfarm Employment</i>	1,991,900	1,996,800	1,945,300	-4,900	-0.25%	46,600	2.40%
Construction	86,100	87,900	82,200	-1,800	-2.09%	3,900	4.74%
Manufacturing	233,300	232,500	229,300	800	0.34%	4,000	1.74%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	378,500	381,700	372,800	-3,200	-0.85%	5,700	1.53%
Information	26,500	26,200	26,300	300	1.13%	200	0.76%
Financial Activities	95,100	96,300	96,400	-1,200	-1.26%	-1,300	-1.35%
Professional and Business Services	265,400	266,200	253,100	-800	-0.30%	12,300	4.86%
Education and Health Services	233,700	232,900	225,400	800	0.34%	8,300	3.68%
Leisure and Hospitality	235,700	235,900	228,100	-200	-0.08%	7,600	3.33%
Other Services	73,600	73,000	71,800	600	0.82%	1,800	2.51%
Government	360,200	360,400	356,000	-200	-0.06%	4,200	1.18%

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

**Statewide  
May 2015**

Industry	May 2015	April 2015	May 2014	April 2015 to May 2015		May 2014 to May 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<i>Total Nonfarm Employment</i>	2,011,400	2,004,300	1,965,800	7,100	0.35%	45,600	2.32%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,800	3,800	3,900	0	0.00%	-100	-2.56%
Construction	86,900	87,700	82,800	-800	-0.91%	4,100	4.95%
Manufacturing	233,100	232,500	230,100	600	0.26%	3,000	1.30%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	380,200	380,400	372,500	-200	-0.05%	7,700	2.07%
Information	26,800	26,400	26,500	400	1.52%	300	1.13%
Financial Activities	95,600	95,600	96,900	0	0.00%	-1,300	-1.34%
Professional and Business Services	268,300	266,000	255,700	2,300	0.86%	12,600	4.93%
Education and Health Services	234,400	234,400	226,300	0	0.00%	8,100	3.58%
Leisure and Hospitality	244,100	239,300	238,400	4,800	2.01%	5,700	2.39%
Other Services	73,400	72,700	72,400	700	0.96%	1,000	1.38%
Government	364,800	365,500	360,300	-700	-0.19%	4,500	1.25%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas  
May 2015**

Area*	May 2015	April 2015	May 2014	April 2015 to May 2015		May 2014 to May 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	1,991,900	1,996,800	1,945,300	-4,900	-0.25%	46,600	2.40%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	330,800	330,900	320,500	-100	-0.03%	10,300	3.21%
Columbia MSA	378,500	379,900	373,400	-1,400	-0.37%	5,100	1.37%
Florence MSA	84,700	85,400	84,000	-700	-0.83%	700	0.83%
Sumter MSA	38,100	38,400	38,700	-300	-0.79%	-600	-1.55%

*\*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  
May 2015**

Area**	May 2015	April 2015	May 2014	April 2015 to May 2015		May 2014 to May 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,011,400	2,004,300	1,965,800	7,100	0.35%	45,600	2.32%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	332,800	330,800	324,300	2,000	0.60%	8,500	2.62%
Columbia MSA	381,300	379,400	375,400	1,900	0.50%	5,900	1.57%
Florence MSA	85,400	85,400	84,800	0	0.00%	600	0.71%
Greenville MSA	399,900	399,900	390,400	0	0.00%	9,500	2.43%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	74,800	73,500	73,100	1,300	1.77%	1,700	2.33%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	160,100	157,500	158,300	2,600	1.65%	1,800	1.14%
Spartanburg MSA	141,300	141,100	137,500	200	0.14%	3,800	2.76%
Sumter MSA	38,500	38,700	38,900	-200	-0.52%	-400	-1.03%

*\*\*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		May 2015				April 2015				May 2014			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Allendale County	↓	2,988	2,642	346	11.6	2,956	2,610	346	11.7	2,775	2,458	317	11.4
Marlboro County	↑	10,234	9,136	1,098	10.7	10,139	9,128	1,011	10.0	9,872	8,884	988	10.0
Orangeburg County	↑	38,918	34,799	4,119	10.6	38,569	34,713	3,856	10.0	37,347	33,925	3,422	9.2
Bamberg County	↑	5,703	5,107	596	10.5	5,625	5,072	553	9.8	5,388	4,852	536	9.9
Marion County	↑	13,172	11,825	1,347	10.2	13,068	11,767	1,301	10.0	12,769	11,532	1,237	9.7
Lee County	↑	6,629	5,979	650	9.8	6,508	5,944	564	8.7	6,337	5,798	539	8.5
Dillon County	↑	12,913	11,694	1,219	9.4	12,767	11,606	1,161	9.1	12,320	11,178	1,142	9.3
Hampton County	↑	8,784	7,959	825	9.4	8,617	7,845	772	9.0	8,224	7,627	597	7.3
Barnwell County	↑	9,040	8,206	834	9.2	9,017	8,213	804	8.9	8,696	7,920	776	8.9
Williamsburg County	↑	13,225	12,021	1,204	9.1	13,139	11,983	1,156	8.8	12,472	11,271	1,201	9.6
Chester County	↑	14,045	12,780	1,265	9.0	13,851	12,665	1,186	8.6	13,602	12,379	1,223	9.0
Union County	↑	11,838	10,788	1,050	8.9	11,760	10,789	971	8.3	11,460	10,527	933	8.1
Clarendon County	↑	13,332	12,204	1,128	8.5	13,221	12,163	1,058	8.0	12,792	11,779	1,013	7.9
Fairfield County	↑	10,222	9,372	850	8.3	10,093	9,307	786	7.8	10,036	9,179	857	8.5
Georgetown County	↑	26,208	24,084	2,124	8.1	25,955	23,961	1,994	7.7	24,840	22,952	1,888	7.6
Darlington County	↑	29,951	27,575	2,376	7.9	29,684	27,461	2,223	7.5	29,386	27,205	2,181	7.4
Cherokee County	↑	24,209	22,328	1,881	7.8	24,107	22,364	1,743	7.2	23,459	21,622	1,837	7.8
McCormick County	↑	3,653	3,370	283	7.7	3,638	3,384	254	7.0	3,505	3,244	261	7.4
Calhoun County	↑	7,061	6,524	537	7.6	6,971	6,469	502	7.2	6,853	6,363	490	7.2
Sumter County	↑	44,122	40,755	3,367	7.6	44,189	41,096	3,093	7.0	44,163	41,148	3,015	6.8
Colleton County	↑	17,435	16,124	1,311	7.5	17,305	16,096	1,209	7.0	16,539	15,353	1,186	7.2
Abbeville County	↑	10,808	10,021	787	7.3	10,781	10,047	734	6.8	10,512	9,741	771	7.3
Florence County	↑	64,903	60,165	4,738	7.3	64,569	60,112	4,457	6.9	63,797	59,513	4,284	6.7
Laurens County	↓	30,771	28,566	2,205	7.2	30,815	28,576	2,239	7.3	29,730	27,833	1,897	6.4
Horry County	↑	139,423	129,536	9,887	7.1	137,272	127,898	9,374	6.8	136,684	128,005	8,679	6.3
Lancaster County	↑	35,670	33,123	2,547	7.1	35,166	32,859	2,307	6.6	34,484	32,074	2,410	7.0
Greenwood County	↑	32,506	30,281	2,225	6.8	32,394	30,304	2,090	6.5	31,464	29,428	2,036	6.5
Chesterfield County	↑	21,837	20,393	1,444	6.6	21,654	20,310	1,344	6.2	21,000	19,661	1,339	6.4
Edgefield County	↑	10,800	10,083	717	6.6	10,823	10,158	665	6.1	10,347	9,705	642	6.2
Kershaw County	↑	28,660	26,782	1,878	6.6	28,354	26,603	1,751	6.2	27,860	26,241	1,619	5.8
Aiken County	↑	74,691	69,880	4,811	6.4	75,174	70,706	4,468	5.9	72,306	67,884	4,422	6.1
Spartanburg County	↑	138,461	129,647	8,814	6.4	137,887	129,647	8,240	6.0	134,515	126,631	7,884	5.9
Oconee County	↑	35,398	33,172	2,226	6.3	35,160	33,158	2,002	5.7	33,863	31,812	2,051	6.1
Pickens County	↑	56,438	52,872	3,566	6.3	56,256	52,973	3,283	5.8	54,701	51,653	3,048	5.6
Richland County	↑	196,546	184,327	12,219	6.2	194,862	183,584	11,278	5.8	192,518	181,760	10,758	5.6
Anderson County	↑	88,620	83,256	5,364	6.1	88,251	83,366	4,885	5.5	86,077	81,359	4,718	5.5
Berkeley County	↑	92,912	87,244	5,668	6.1	92,175	86,961	5,214	5.7	90,342	85,345	4,997	5.5
York County	↑	124,888	117,310	7,578	6.1	123,604	116,515	7,089	5.7	121,019	113,777	7,242	6.0
Beaufort County	↑	71,411	67,106	4,305	6.0	70,095	66,045	4,050	5.8	69,013	65,407	3,606	5.2
Dorchester County	↑	71,909	67,627	4,282	6.0	71,351	67,394	3,957	5.5	69,775	66,099	3,676	5.3
Newberry County	↑	18,970	17,848	1,122	5.9	18,734	17,693	1,041	5.6	18,087	17,110	977	5.4
Saluda County	↑	8,855	8,340	515	5.8	8,654	8,182	472	5.5	8,443	7,981	462	5.5
Jasper County	↑	11,776	11,102	674	5.7	11,557	10,940	617	5.3	11,298	10,707	591	5.2
Greenville County	↑	239,590	226,290	13,300	5.6	238,882	226,669	12,213	5.1	232,714	221,297	11,417	4.9
Lexington County	↑	142,428	134,650	7,778	5.5	141,021	133,925	7,096	5.0	138,801	132,186	6,615	4.8
Charleston County	↑	197,007	186,377	10,630	5.4	195,471	185,800	9,671	4.9	190,820	181,681	9,139	4.8
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	361,828	341,248	20,580	5.7	358,997	340,155	18,842	5.2	350,937	333,125	17,812	5.1
Columbia MSA	↑	393,772	369,995	23,777	6.0	389,955	368,070	21,885	5.6	384,511	363,710	20,801	5.4
Florence MSA	↑	94,854	87,740	7,114	7.5	94,253	87,573	6,680	7.1	93,183	86,718	6,465	6.9
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↑	415,419	390,984	24,435	5.9	414,204	391,584	22,620	5.5	403,222	382,142	21,080	5.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,263,293	2,109,984	153,309	6.8	2,255,834	2,104,381	151,453	6.7	2,179,290	2,044,978	134,312	6.2

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 =