



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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South Carolina's Employment Situation February 2016

Strong Increase in Employment Unemployment Rate Unchanged for Last 6 Months

A new employment record was set as 12,576 people found work in February, bringing the number of people employed to 2,163,109. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged for the sixth consecutive month at 5.5 percent.

The labor force also saw sizeable growth with 13,604 people entering the workforce from January to February, raising the total labor force to 2,288,643. The number of unemployed rose slightly by 1,028 in February, ending at 125,534.

Over the past year, employment expanded by 60,212, while those who were unemployed decreased by 20,216. The labor force has grown by 39,996 since February 2015.

Nationally, February's unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

February's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased (+1,900) since January to 2,030,600. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,500) led the upturn, followed by Leisure and Hospitality (+3,100); Other Services (+1,400); Manufacturing (+1,300); Education and Health Services (+900); and Construction (+300). The largest decreases were reported in Professional and Business Services (-6,700) and Government (-1,200) with lesser job losses in Financial Activities (-600) and Information (-100).

Compared to February 2015, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 42,200. Industries with significant increases were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,600); Education and Health Services (+8,600); Professional and Business Services (+7,400); Construction (+5,700); Manufacturing (+3,900); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,500); Government (+3,300); and Other Services (+1,300). The only over-the-year losses were in Information (-200) and Financial Activities (-100).

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased (+11,400) from January to February, hitting a total of 2,009,100. Growth was reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+5,200); Government (+4,600); Education and Health Services (+2,900); Manufacturing (+1,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,000); Construction (+900); and Other Services (+800). The most significant job loss was seen in Professional and Business Services (-4,300). Minor declines were in the Financial Activities (-700) and Information (-100) industries.

Since February 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up (+48,900) overall. Strong annual gains came from Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+9,700); Education and Health Services (+8,600); Professional and Business Services (+7,900); Construction (+6,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+6,000); Government (+4,300); Manufacturing (+3,400); Other Services (+1,400); Financial Activities (+800); and Mining and Logging (+200). The only industry reporting employment losses was Information (-200).

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.

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
February 2016

Industry	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	January 2016 to February 2016		February 2015 to February 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,030,600	2,028,700	1,988,400	1,900	0.09%	42,200	2.12%
Construction	91,200	90,900	85,500	300	0.33%	5,700	6.67%
Manufacturing	238,600	237,300	234,700	1,300	0.54%	3,900	1.66%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	389,200	385,700	380,600	3,500	0.90%	8,600	2.26%
Information	26,600	26,700	26,800	-100	-0.38%	-200	-0.75%
Financial Activities	96,600	97,200	96,700	-600	-0.62%	-100	-0.10%
Professional and Business Services	265,500	272,200	258,100	-6,700	-2.52%	7,400	2.87%
Education and Health Services	240,500	239,600	231,900	900	0.37%	8,600	3.71%
Leisure and Hospitality	241,300	238,200	237,800	3,100	1.28%	3,500	1.47%
Other Services	74,500	73,100	73,200	1,400	1.88%	1,300	1.78%
Government	362,500	363,700	359,200	-1,200	-0.33%	3,300	0.92%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
February 2016

Industry	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	January 2016 to February 2016		February 2015 to February 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	2,009,100	1,997,700	1,960,200	11,400	0.57%	48,900	2.49%
Mining and Logging	4,100	4,100	3,900	0	0.00%	200	5.13%
Construction	90,500	89,600	83,700	900	1.00%	6,800	8.12%
Manufacturing	238,000	236,900	234,600	1,100	0.46%	3,400	1.45%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	383,000	382,000	373,300	1,000	0.26%	9,700	2.60%
Information	26,400	26,500	26,600	-100	-0.38%	-200	-0.75%
Financial Activities	96,100	96,800	95,300	-700	-0.72%	800	0.84%
Professional and Business Services	261,300	265,600	253,400	-4,300	-1.62%	7,900	3.12%
Education and Health Services	240,900	238,000	232,300	2,900	1.22%	8,600	3.70%
Leisure and Hospitality	228,500	223,300	222,500	5,200	2.33%	6,000	2.70%
Other Services	73,800	73,000	72,400	800	1.10%	1,400	1.93%
Government	366,500	361,900	362,200	4,600	1.27%	4,300	1.19%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas February 2016

Area	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	January 2016 to February 2016		February 2015 to February 2016	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,030,600	2,028,700	1,988,400	1,900	0.09%	42,200	2.12%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	338,200	339,400	329,900	-1,200	-0.35%	8,300	2.52%
Columbia MSA	388,700	391,200	381,600	-2,500	-0.64%	7,100	1.86%
Florence MSA	86,500	86,000	85,600	500	0.58%	900	1.05%
Sumter MSA	39,600	39,000	38,700	600	1.52%	900	2.33%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas February 2016

Area	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	January 2016 to February 2016		February 2015 to February 2016	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,009,100	1,997,700	1,960,200	11,400	0.57%	48,900	2.49%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	334,500	333,500	325,500	1,000	0.30%	9,000	2.76%
Columbia MSA	386,800	386,700	379,700	100	0.03%	7,100	1.87%
Florence MSA	86,600	85,700	85,100	900	1.05%	1,500	1.76%
Greenville MSA	402,000	400,600	393,100	1,400	0.35%	8,900	2.26%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	74,300	73,600	71,700	700	0.95%	2,600	3.63%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	149,700	147,200	144,400	2,500	1.70%	5,300	3.67%
Spartanburg MSA	144,400	144,000	139,600	400	0.28%	4,800	3.44%
Sumter MSA	39,500	39,000	38,600	500	1.28%	900	2.33%

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		February 2016				January 2016				February 2015*			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Bamberg County	↑	5,429	4,884	545	10.0	5,408	4,881	527	9.7	5,545	4,922	623	11.2
Allendale County	—	2,699	2,432	267	9.9	2,720	2,452	268	9.9	2,763	2,383	380	13.8
Marion County	—	12,929	11,658	1,271	9.8	12,805	11,550	1,255	9.8	12,706	11,233	1,473	11.6
Marlboro County	↓	9,706	8,776	930	9.6	9,640	8,699	941	9.8	9,811	8,749	1,062	10.8
Orangeburg County	↓	36,635	33,330	3,305	9.0	36,403	33,080	3,323	9.1	37,691	33,453	4,238	11.2
Williamsburg County	↓	12,982	11,840	1,142	8.8	12,930	11,761	1,169	9.0	12,641	11,332	1,309	10.4
Georgetown County	↓	25,664	23,532	2,132	8.3	25,477	23,310	2,167	8.5	24,057	21,660	2,397	10.0
Lee County	↑	6,490	5,953	537	8.3	6,470	5,946	524	8.1	6,423	5,834	589	9.2
Barnwell County	↑	8,445	7,755	690	8.2	8,366	7,714	652	7.8	8,512	7,633	879	10.3
Fairfield County	↑	10,316	9,479	837	8.1	10,260	9,463	797	7.8	10,102	9,245	857	8.5
Dillon County	↓	12,570	11,574	996	7.9	12,587	11,572	1,015	8.1	12,451	11,229	1,222	9.8
Chester County	—	13,705	12,670	1,035	7.6	13,685	12,649	1,036	7.6	13,617	12,330	1,287	9.5
Horry County	↓	133,904	123,956	9,948	7.4	131,752	121,427	10,325	7.8	130,576	118,697	11,879	9.1
Union County	↑	11,928	11,040	888	7.4	11,766	10,952	814	6.9	11,651	10,602	1,049	9.0
Clarendon County	↓	13,093	12,144	949	7.2	13,046	12,096	950	7.3	12,976	11,849	1,127	8.7
Darlington County	↑	30,184	28,025	2,159	7.2	29,908	27,795	2,113	7.1	29,916	27,440	2,476	8.3
Hampton County	↓	8,133	7,545	588	7.2	8,148	7,557	591	7.3	8,243	7,418	825	10.0
McCormick County	↓	3,501	3,257	244	7.0	3,465	3,216	249	7.2	3,492	3,197	295	8.4
Cherokee County	↑	23,801	22,208	1,593	6.7	23,464	21,941	1,523	6.5	23,593	21,694	1,899	8.0
Colleton County	↑	17,051	15,932	1,119	6.6	16,873	15,773	1,100	6.5	16,375	15,097	1,278	7.8
Sumter County	—	45,350	42,409	2,941	6.5	44,866	41,950	2,916	6.5	44,437	41,207	3,230	7.3
Calhoun County	↑	6,984	6,538	446	6.4	6,971	6,535	436	6.3	6,916	6,376	540	7.8
Edgefield County	↑	10,654	9,967	687	6.4	10,671	10,004	667	6.3	10,580	9,886	694	6.6
Abbeville County	↓	10,487	9,851	636	6.1	10,380	9,707	673	6.5	10,527	9,746	781	7.4
Florence County	—	65,943	61,899	4,044	6.1	65,039	61,071	3,968	6.1	65,129	60,404	4,725	7.3
Lancaster County	↑	36,429	34,214	2,215	6.1	36,276	34,095	2,181	6.0	35,736	33,253	2,483	6.9
Chesterfield County	—	21,456	20,209	1,247	5.8	21,307	20,079	1,228	5.8	21,122	19,715	1,407	6.7
Laurens County	↓	30,646	28,874	1,772	5.8	30,458	28,661	1,797	5.9	30,261	28,034	2,227	7.4
Oconee County	↓	35,028	33,003	2,025	5.8	34,747	32,700	2,047	5.9	34,074	31,935	2,139	6.3
Kershaw County	↑	29,198	27,539	1,659	5.7	29,113	27,482	1,631	5.6	28,667	26,851	1,816	6.3
Aiken County	—	73,620	69,476	4,144	5.6	73,563	69,427	4,136	5.6	73,502	68,870	4,632	6.3
Greenwood County	↓	31,436	29,676	1,760	5.6	31,140	29,343	1,797	5.8	31,656	29,441	2,215	7.0
Pickens County	↓	56,637	53,564	3,073	5.4	56,132	53,062	3,070	5.5	55,319	51,958	3,361	6.1
Saluda County	↑	8,741	8,282	459	5.3	8,859	8,405	454	5.1	8,626	8,137	489	5.7
Richland County	↓	200,151	189,679	10,472	5.2	199,159	188,666	10,493	5.3	196,405	184,738	11,667	5.9
Spartanburg County	—	142,037	134,660	7,377	5.2	140,948	133,631	7,317	5.2	138,011	129,379	8,632	6.3
Beaufort County	↓	71,482	67,814	3,668	5.1	70,524	66,858	3,666	5.2	69,074	64,934	4,140	6.0
Berkeley County	—	94,180	89,365	4,815	5.1	93,383	88,606	4,777	5.1	91,879	86,287	5,592	6.1
Dorchester County	—	72,898	69,203	3,695	5.1	72,305	68,627	3,678	5.1	70,967	66,816	4,151	5.8
York County	—	126,857	120,361	6,496	5.1	126,155	119,734	6,421	5.1	124,484	116,868	7,616	6.1
Anderson County	—	89,360	84,897	4,463	5.0	88,646	84,192	4,454	5.0	87,551	82,419	5,132	5.9
Newberry County	↓	18,884	17,937	947	5.0	18,923	17,966	957	5.1	18,532	17,473	1,059	5.7
Jasper County	—	11,701	11,145	556	4.8	11,516	10,962	554	4.8	11,288	10,635	653	5.8
Greenville County	↓	243,707	232,377	11,330	4.6	241,587	230,349	11,238	4.7	238,422	225,560	12,862	5.4
Charleston County	—	199,706	190,714	8,992	4.5	197,886	188,909	8,977	4.5	194,279	183,895	10,384	5.3
Lexington County	—	145,944	139,374	6,570	4.5	145,421	138,828	6,593	4.5	143,214	135,765	7,449	5.2
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	—	366,784	349,282	17,502	4.8	363,574	346,142	17,432	4.8	357,125	336,998	20,127	5.6
Columbia MSA	—	401,334	380,891	20,443	5.1	399,783	379,379	20,404	5.1	393,930	371,112	22,818	5.8
Florence MSA	↑	96,127	89,924	6,203	6.5	94,947	88,866	6,081	6.4	95,045	87,844	7,201	7.6
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	—	420,350	399,712	20,638	4.9	416,823	396,264	20,559	4.9	411,553	387,971	23,582	5.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	—	2,288,643	2,163,109	125,534	5.5	2,275,039	2,150,533	124,506	5.5	2,248,647	2,102,897	145,750	6.5

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

*2015 substate estimates will be revised at the conclusion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual benchmarking process.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
— Unemployment Rate =