For Immediate Release
January 23, 2017

South Carolina's Employment Situation
December 2016

Employment Marks Another New Record in December

South Carolinians continued to find work in December as employment rose to a new record high and unemployment dropped for the eighth consecutive month.

The number of people working in December rose by 8,700 from November to a record level of 2,208,923. The number of unemployed declined by 3,204 to 98,962, the lowest level since April 2001, and the labor force rose by 5,496 people to 2,307,885.

These factors pushed South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate estimate down to 4.3 percent in December from 4.4 percent in November.

Since December 2015, employment has increased by 69,926, and the labor force added 44,455 people. In the last year, the number of unemployed has dropped by 25,471.

Nationally, the jobless rate increased to 4.7 percent in December from 4.6 percent in November.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted[1])
December's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment declined by 1,700 from November to a level of 2,070,100.

- Job gains were reported in Education and Health Services (+2,000); Government (+1,000); Manufacturing (+500); Financial Activities (+500); and Information (+200).
- Decreases occurred in Professional and Business Services (-1,600); Construction (-1,600); Leisure and Hospitality (-1,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,000); and Other Services (-100).

Compared to December 2015, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 34,900.

- Increases were registered in Education and Health Services (+10,600); Professional and Business Services (+9,400); Manufacturing (+4,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,200); Government (+3,300); Construction (+2,700); Financial Activities (+1,600); and Leisure and Hospitality (+700).
- Other Services (-1,700) and Information (-400) decreased.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted[2])

Over the month, the not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 5,200 to 2,076,100. Growth was reported in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,200); Education and Health Services (+1,700); Manufacturing (+300); Information (+100); and Other Services (+100). Financial Activities remained steady. Industries reporting prominent decreases were Leisure and Hospitality (-6,200); Professional and Business Services (-2,800); Construction (-1,300); Government (-200); and Mining and Logging (-100).

Since December 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 37,600. Industries marking annual gains were Education and Health Services (+10,900); Professional and Business Services (+9,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+5,700); Manufacturing (+3,800); Government (+2,900); Construction (+2,500); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,300); Financial Activities (+1,400); and Mining and Logging (+200). Other Services (-1,100) and Information (-600) noted over-the-year losses.

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[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.

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
December 2016

Industry	December 2016	November 2016	December 2015	November 2016 to December 2016		December 2015 to December 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	*2,070,100*	*2,071,800*	*2,035,200*	*-1,700*	*-0.08%*	*34,900*	*1.71%*
Construction	91,300	92,900	88,600	-1,600	-1.75%	2,700	3.05%
Manufacturing	242,200	241,700	237,900	500	0.21%	4,300	1.81%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	393,300	394,300	389,100	-1,000	-0.25%	4,200	1.08%
Information	26,600	26,400	27,000	200	0.75%	-400	-1.48%
Financial Activities	98,600	98,100	97,000	500	0.51%	1,600	1.65%
Professional and Business Services	281,900	283,500	272,500	-1,600	-0.57%	9,400	3.45%
Education and Health Services	250,300	248,300	239,700	2,000	0.80%	10,600	4.42%
Leisure and Hospitality	242,400	243,900	241,700	-1,500	-0.62%	700	0.29%
Other Services	73,400	73,500	75,100	-100	-0.14%	-1,700	-2.26%
Government	365,800	364,800	362,500	1,000	0.27%	3,300	0.91%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
December 2016

Industry	December 2016	November 2016	December 2015	November 2016 to December 2016		December 2015 to December 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	*2,076,100*	*2,081,300*	*2,038,500*	*-5,200*	*-0.25%*	*37,600*	*1.84%*
Mining and Logging	4,300	4,400	4,100	-100	-2.27%	200	4.88%
Construction	90,900	92,200	88,400	-1,300	-1.41%	2,500	2.83%
Manufacturing	242,600	242,300	238,800	300	0.12%	3,800	1.59%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	402,700	399,500	397,000	3,200	0.80%	5,700	1.44%
Information	26,400	26,300	27,000	100	0.38%	-600	-2.22%
Financial Activities	98,800	98,800	97,400	0	0.00%	1,400	1.44%
Professional and Business Services	282,200	285,000	272,600	-2,800	-0.98%	9,600	3.52%
Education and Health Services	251,900	250,200	241,000	1,700	0.68%	10,900	4.52%
Leisure and Hospitality	232,000	238,200	229,700	-6,200	-2.60%	2,300	1.00%
Other Services	73,900	73,800	75,000	100	0.14%	-1,100	-1.47%
Government	370,400	370,600	367,500	-200	-0.05%	2,900	0.79%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
December 2016

Area	December 2016	November 2016	December 2015	November 2016 to December 2016		December 2015 to December 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	*2,070,100*	*2,071,800*	*2,035,200*	*-1,700*	*-0.08%*	*34,900*	*1.71%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	347,200	348,400	337,800	-1,200	-0.35%	9,400	2.78%
Columbia MSA	396,500	394,900	390,800	1,600	0.40%	5,700	1.46%
Florence MSA	87,300	87,100	87,200	200	0.23%	100	0.11%
Sumter MSA	38,900	39,100	39,000	-200	-0.51%	(100)	-0.26%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
December 2016

Area	December 2016	November 2016	December 2015	November 2016 to December 2016		December 2015 to December 2016	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	*2,076,100*	*2,081,300*	*2,038,500*	*-5,200*	*-0.25%*	*37,600*	*1.84%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	348,700	350,000	338,000	-1,300	-0.37%	10,700	3.17%
Columbia MSA	398,700	399,600	393,900	-900	-0.23%	4,800	1.22%
Florence MSA	88,200	88,000	88,000	200	0.23%	200	0.23%
Greenville MSA	416,300	415,900	410,700	400	0.10%	5,600	1.36%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	76,100	76,400	74,900	-300	-0.39%	1,200	1.60%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	151,900	155,600	151,600	-3,700	-2.38%	300	0.20%
Spartanburg MSA	148,500	148,300	147,000	200	0.13%	1,500	1.02%
Sumter MSA	39,400	39,400	39,400	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

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		December 2016 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	November 2016 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	December 2015 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marion County	↑	12,928	11,930	998	7.7	12,892	11,927	965	7.5	12,780	11,556	1,224	9.6
Allendale County	↑	2,746	2,543	203	7.4	2,735	2,535	200	7.3	2,709	2,449	260	9.6
Bamberg County	↓	5,477	5,076	401	7.3	5,462	5,056	406	7.4	5,348	4,871	477	8.9
Orangeburg County	↓	37,034	34,426	2,608	7.0	36,961	34,295	2,666	7.2	36,360	33,032	3,328	9.2
Chester County	↑	13,886	12,962	924	6.7	13,717	12,924	793	5.8	13,580	12,582	998	7.3
Marlboro County	–	9,691	9,056	635	6.6	9,657	9,015	642	6.6	9,598	8,665	933	9.7
Williamsburg County	↑	13,020	12,188	832	6.4	12,890	12,135	755	5.9	12,870	11,736	1,134	8.8
Fairfield County	↑	10,270	9,669	601	5.9	10,234	9,653	581	5.7	10,194	9,427	767	7.5
Lee County	↑	6,476	6,094	382	5.9	6,438	6,072	366	5.7	6,423	5,927	496	7.7
Barnwell County	–	8,484	7,992	492	5.8	8,452	7,958	494	5.8	8,299	7,674	625	7.5
Georgetown County	↑	25,662	24,190	1,472	5.7	25,532	24,208	1,324	5.2	25,424	23,327	2,097	8.2
Dillon County	↑	12,683	11,974	709	5.6	12,598	11,927	671	5.3	12,561	11,557	1,004	8.0
Horry County	↑	131,951	124,499	7,452	5.6	133,357	126,816	6,541	4.9	132,022	122,296	9,726	7.4
Clarendon County	↑	13,211	12,498	713	5.4	13,137	12,452	685	5.2	12,990	12,070	920	7.1
Darlington County	–	29,910	28,341	1,569	5.2	29,716	28,185	1,531	5.2	29,945	27,896	2,049	6.8
Calhoun County	↓	7,037	6,686	351	5.0	7,053	6,676	377	5.3	6,927	6,523	404	5.8
Sumter County	↑	44,213	42,011	2,202	5.0	43,984	41,821	2,163	4.9	44,215	41,420	2,795	6.3
Edgefield County	↑	10,779	10,252	527	4.9	10,709	10,215	494	4.6	10,603	9,934	669	6.3
Cherokee County	↑	23,893	22,744	1,149	4.8	23,737	22,641	1,096	4.6	23,239	21,850	1,389	6.0
Union County	↑	11,757	11,209	548	4.7	11,698	11,165	533	4.6	11,699	10,935	764	6.5
McCormick County	↑	3,514	3,353	161	4.6	3,485	3,340	145	4.2	3,436	3,213	223	6.5
Colleton County	↑	17,226	16,458	768	4.5	17,152	16,410	742	4.3	16,800	15,760	1,040	6.2
Hampton County	–	8,184	7,812	372	4.5	8,163	7,797	366	4.5	8,133	7,548	585	7.2
Lancaster County	↑	36,656	35,006	1,650	4.5	36,473	34,906	1,567	4.3	35,983	33,964	2,019	5.6
Greenwood County	↑	31,939	30,542	1,397	4.4	31,750	30,404	1,346	4.2	30,922	29,269	1,653	5.3
Kershaw County	↑	29,361	28,079	1,282	4.4	29,290	28,034	1,256	4.3	28,938	27,375	1,563	5.4
Abbeville County	↑	10,585	10,133	452	4.3	10,525	10,087	438	4.2	10,307	9,700	607	5.9
Florence County	↑	65,289	62,466	2,823	4.3	64,869	62,117	2,752	4.2	65,218	61,375	3,843	5.9
Chesterfield County	↑	21,757	20,838	919	4.2	21,617	20,758	859	4.0	21,244	20,085	1,159	5.5
Laurens County	↑	30,813	29,563	1,250	4.1	30,672	29,445	1,227	4.0	30,428	28,773	1,655	5.4
Oconee County	↑	35,435	33,978	1,457	4.1	35,190	33,836	1,354	3.8	34,583	32,662	1,921	5.6
Aiken County	–	73,956	71,015	2,941	4.0	73,639	70,725	2,914	4.0	72,598	68,681	3,917	5.4
Pickens County	–	57,052	54,745	2,307	4.0	56,784	54,517	2,267	4.0	56,083	53,242	2,841	5.1
Richland County	–	200,610	192,612	7,998	4.0	200,195	192,218	7,977	4.0	197,667	187,555	10,112	5.1
Beaufort County	↑	71,573	68,753	2,820	3.9	71,559	68,827	2,732	3.8	70,177	66,809	3,368	4.8
York County	↑	127,983	123,011	4,972	3.9	127,515	122,645	4,870	3.8	125,266	119,271	5,995	4.8
Spartanburg County	–	142,081	136,611	5,470	3.8	141,451	136,062	5,389	3.8	140,207	133,305	6,902	4.9
Anderson County	↑	90,068	86,762	3,306	3.7	89,627	86,395	3,232	3.6	88,517	84,409	4,108	4.6
Berkeley County	↑	95,258	91,737	3,521	3.7	95,078	91,660	3,418	3.6	92,171	87,684	4,487	4.9
Dorchester County	↑	73,782	71,079	2,703	3.7	73,686	71,022	2,664	3.6	71,431	67,947	3,484	4.9
Newberry County	↑	19,258	18,553	705	3.7	19,157	18,495	662	3.5	18,787	17,915	872	4.6
Saluda County	↑	8,913	8,580	333	3.7	8,891	8,578	313	3.5	8,814	8,412	402	4.6
Greenville County	↑	245,958	237,364	8,594	3.5	244,772	236,353	8,419	3.4	241,358	230,896	10,462	4.3
Jasper County	–	11,797	11,380	417	3.5	11,808	11,399	409	3.5	11,557	11,050	507	4.4
Charleston County	↑	202,852	196,165	6,687	3.3	202,466	196,045	6,421	3.2	195,828	187,519	8,309	4.2
Lexington County	–	146,821	141,933	4,888	3.3	146,460	141,681	4,779	3.3	144,518	138,277	6,241	4.3
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	371,892	358,981	12,911	3.5	371,230	358,727	12,503	3.4	359,430	343,150	16,280	4.5
Columbia MSA	–	403,012	387,559	15,453	3.8	402,123	386,840	15,283	3.8	397,058	377,569	19,489	4.9
Florence MSA	↑	95,199	90,807	4,392	4.6	94,585	90,302	4,283	4.5	95,163	89,271	5,892	6.2
Greenville -Anderson-Mauldin MSA	–	423,891	408,434	15,457	3.6	421,855	406,710	15,145	3.6	416,386	397,320	19,066	4.6
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,307,885	2,208,923	98,962	4.3	2,302,389	2,200,223	102,166	4.4	2,263,430	2,138,997	124,433	5.5

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 =