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South Carolina's Employment Situation October 2023

I. Household Survey¹ (Local Area Unemployment Statistics)

Employment: The seasonally adjusted, monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working increased to 2,393,128.

- That is an increase of 3,248 people over the September 2023 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 100,019 people over the October 2022 estimate.

Unemployment: The estimate of unemployed people increased to 71,886.

- That is an increase of 239 people from September's estimate and a decrease of 6,188 from the October 2022 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 2.9 percent from September's estimate.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate increased to 3.9 percent from September's estimate of 3.8 percent, according to the Current Population Survey.

Labor force: The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,465,014.

- That is an increase of 3,487 people over the September 2023 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 93,831 individuals over the October 2022 estimate.

II. Employer Survey² (Current Employment Statistics)

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted³)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 6,100 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,314,000.

- Industries reporting gains were Professional and Business Services (+2,400); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,300); Manufacturing (+1,100); Financial Activities (+900); and Government (+100).
- Construction (-500); Other Services (-500); and Education and Health Services (-200) industries declined.

- The Information industry marked no change over the month.

From October 2022 to October 2023, South Carolina's economy has picked up 49,200 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

- Industries making strong growth were Education and Health Services (+14,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+10,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+9,500); Government (+8,300); Financial Activities (+3,100); Professional and Business Services (+2,700); Construction (+800); Other Services (+400); and Information (+300).
- Manufacturing (-300) declined.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted⁴)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 14,900 from September 2023 to October 2023 for a total of 2,322,600.

- Professional and Business Services (+5,100); Government (+3,800); Trade Transportation and Utilities (+2,900); Education and Health Services (+1,600); Financial Activities (+1,400); Manufacturing (+1,000); Construction (+300); and Information (+200) industries increased over the month.
- Leisure and Hospitality (-700) and Other Services (-700) industries declined.
- The Mining and Logging industry showed no change over the month.

Since October 2022, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 49,100 in South Carolina.

- Industries making strong annual gains were Educational and Health Services (+14,200); Leisure and Hospitality (+9,900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+9,400); Government (+8,200); Professional and Business Services (+3,400); Financial Activities (+3,000); Construction (+700); Other Services (+300); Information (+300); Construction (+700); and Mining and Logging (+100).
- The Manufacturing industry declined (-400).

¹**Household Survey:** Nationally, there is a monthly Current Population Survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to determine employment status of the civilian population. This information, along with other inputs, are used by DEW to operate the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program, which estimates the number of individuals employed and those not employed, but actively seeking employment for statewide and a variety of substate geographies.

²**Employer Survey:** BLS conducts a monthly Current Employment Statistics survey of about 44,000 employers which yields national estimates of nonagricultural wage and salary employment, hours, and earnings by industry. These data are processed by DEW to generate comparable data for the state and its metropolitan statistical areas.

³**Seasonally Adjusted:** Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a 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.

⁴**Not Seasonally Adjusted:** Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide

October-23

Jobs by Industry	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023 to October 2023		October 2022 to October 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,314,000	2,307,900	2,264,800	6,100	0.26%	49,200	2.17%
Construction	110,900	111,400	110,100	-500	-0.45%	800	0.73%
Manufacturing	261,800	260,700	262,100	1,100	0.42%	-300	-0.11%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	445,900	444,600	436,400	1,300	0.29%	9,500	2.18%
Information	31,800	31,800	31,500	0	0.00%	300	0.95%
Financial Activities	121,400	120,500	118,300	900	0.75%	3,100	2.62%
Professional and Business Services	316,800	314,400	314,100	2,400	0.76%	2,700	0.86%
Education and Health Services	284,300	284,500	270,000	-200	-0.07%	14,300	5.30%
Leisure and Hospitality	277,300	275,800	267,300	1,500	0.54%	10,000	3.74%
Other Services	82,600	83,100	82,200	-500	-0.60%	400	0.49%
Government	376,600	376,500	368,300	100	0.03%	8,300	2.25%

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.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide

October-23

Industry	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023 to October 2023		October 2022 to October 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,322,600	2,307,700	2,273,500	14,900	0.65%	49,100	2.16%
Mining and Logging	4,600	4,600	4,500	0	0.00%	100	2.22%
Construction	110,700	110,400	110,000	300	0.27%	700	0.64%
Manufacturing	261,800	260,800	262,200	1,000	0.38%	-400	-0.15%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	444,800	441,900	435,400	2,900	0.66%	9,400	2.16%
Information	31,600	31,400	31,300	200	0.64%	300	0.96%
Financial Activities	122,100	120,700	119,100	1,400	1.16%	3,000	2.52%
Professional and Business Services	319,900	314,800	316,500	5,100	1.62%	3,400	1.07%
Education and Health Services	286,500	284,900	272,300	1,600	0.56%	14,200	5.21%
Leisure and Hospitality	276,300	277,000	266,400	-700	-0.25%	9,900	3.72%
Other Services	82,800	83,500	82,500	-700	-0.84%	300	0.36%
Government	381,500	377,700	373,300	3,800	1.01%	8,200	2.20%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA
South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted

October-23

INDUSTRY TITLE	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023 to October 2023		October 2022 to October 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,314,000	2,307,900	2,264,800	6,100	0.26%	49,200	2.17%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	426,500	421,700	402,400	4,800	1.14%	24,100	5.99%
Columbia MSA	419,700	419,300	414,900	400	0.10%	4,800	1.16%
Florence MSA	96,700	96,300	94,300	400	0.42%	2,400	2.55%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	460,200	459,800	454,600	400	0.09%	5,600	1.23%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	88,000	88,000	86,500	0	0.00%	1,500	1.73%
Myrtle Beach MSA	192,500	192,100	187,200	400	0.21%	5,300	2.83%
Spartanburg MSA	172,600	171,700	168,500	900	0.52%	4,100	2.43%
Sumter MSA	39,700	39,900	39,100	-200	-0.50%	600	1.53%

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.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Not Seasonally Adjusted

October-23

Area	October 2023	September 2023	October 2022	September 2023 to October 2023		October 2022 to October 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,322,600	2,307,700	2,273,500	14,900	0.65%	49,100	2.16%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	426,800	420,000	402,300	6,800	1.62%	24,500	6.09%
Columbia MSA	422,200	419,900	417,000	2,300	0.55%	5,200	1.25%
Florence MSA	97,000	96,100	94,400	900	0.94%	2,600	2.75%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	462,000	460,100	456,700	1,900	0.41%	5,300	1.16%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	87,700	87,500	86,100	200	0.23%	1,600	1.86%
Myrtle Beach MSA	192,400	193,000	186,900	-600	-0.31%	5,500	2.94%
Spartanburg MSA	173,200	172,000	169,200	1,200	0.70%	4,000	2.36%
Sumter MSA	39,700	39,700	39,200	0	0.00%	500	1.28%

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 ESTIMATES BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

AREA	October 2023				September 2023				October 2022				
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	
Marlboro County	↑	7,247	6,791	456	6.3	7,424	6,990	434	5.8	8,064	7,548	516	6.4
Bamberg County	↑	4,591	4,337	254	5.5	4,597	4,376	221	4.8	4,535	4,281	254	5.6
Allendale County	↑	2,340	2,215	125	5.3	2,360	2,258	102	4.3	2,234	2,116	118	5.3
Barnwell County	↑	7,661	7,302	359	4.7	7,612	7,306	306	4.0	7,413	7,090	323	4.4
Williamsburg County	↑	10,253	9,786	467	4.6	10,314	9,903	411	4.0	10,561	10,070	491	4.6
Cherokee County	↑	24,036	22,985	1,051	4.4	23,737	22,957	780	3.3	24,438	23,315	1,123	4.6
Orangeburg County	↑	33,652	32,174	1,478	4.4	33,558	32,260	1,298	3.9	32,658	31,054	1,604	4.9
Dillon County	↑	13,236	12,695	541	4.1	13,223	12,750	473	3.6	12,754	12,197	557	4.4
Marion County	↑	12,808	12,278	530	4.1	12,821	12,359	462	3.6	12,506	11,920	586	4.7
Chester County	↑	13,798	13,260	538	3.9	13,818	13,343	475	3.4	13,293	12,733	560	4.2
Clarendon County	↑	12,214	11,742	472	3.9	12,276	11,880	396	3.2	11,821	11,331	490	4.1
Union County	↑	11,502	11,069	433	3.8	11,455	11,075	380	3.3	11,204	10,665	539	4.8
Fairfield County	↑	9,376	9,027	349	3.7	9,371	9,044	327	3.5	9,137	8,735	402	4.4
Lee County	↑	6,563	6,322	241	3.7	6,564	6,360	204	3.1	6,353	6,052	301	4.7
Sumter County	↑	42,655	41,084	1,571	3.7	42,659	41,306	1,353	3.2	41,503	39,880	1,623	3.9
Abbeville County	↑	9,595	9,247	348	3.6	9,565	9,269	296	3.1	9,472	9,107	365	3.9
Greenwood County	↑	30,087	29,067	1,020	3.4	30,030	29,161	869	2.9	29,780	28,634	1,146	3.8
Darlington County	↑	30,879	29,873	1,006	3.3	30,687	29,830	857	2.8	29,604	28,581	1,023	3.5
Pickens County	↑	59,959	58,001	1,958	3.3	59,537	58,107	1,430	2.4	58,237	56,346	1,891	3.2
Calhoun County	↑	6,581	6,370	211	3.2	6,574	6,386	188	2.9	6,382	6,154	228	3.6
Chesterfield County	↑	21,456	20,764	692	3.2	21,473	20,860	613	2.9	20,946	20,182	764	3.6
Edgefield County	↑	10,488	10,148	340	3.2	10,443	10,161	282	2.7	10,203	9,819	384	3.8
Horry County	↑	157,162	152,152	5,010	3.2	157,996	153,575	4,421	2.8	151,005	145,497	5,508	3.6
Lancaster County	↑	45,113	43,652	1,461	3.2	45,227	43,904	1,323	2.9	43,441	41,907	1,534	3.5
Laurens County	↑	31,055	30,054	1,001	3.2	31,008	30,131	877	2.8	30,170	29,163	1,007	3.3
Richland County	↑	201,595	195,186	6,409	3.2	200,511	195,229	5,282	2.6	195,940	189,440	6,500	3.3
Aiken County	↑	74,300	72,017	2,283	3.1	73,910	71,955	1,955	2.6	72,372	70,001	2,371	3.3
Georgetown County	↑	26,292	25,465	827	3.1	26,551	25,801	750	2.8	25,975	25,068	907	3.5
Kershaw County	↑	30,094	29,172	922	3.1	30,009	29,220	789	2.6	29,201	28,234	967	3.3
Florence County	↑	68,538	66,457	2,081	3.0	68,050	66,272	1,778	2.6	65,777	63,647	2,130	3.2
McCormick County	↑	3,433	3,331	102	3.0	3,453	3,352	101	2.9	3,531	3,411	120	3.4
Spartanburg County	↑	159,486	154,761	4,725	3.0	158,768	154,831	3,937	2.5	154,103	149,179	4,924	3.2
Anderson County	↑	94,241	91,548	2,693	2.9	94,066	91,735	2,331	2.5	91,731	88,954	2,777	3.0
Colleton County	↑	16,265	15,792	473	2.9	16,196	15,774	422	2.6	15,859	15,315	544	3.4
Hampton County	↑	8,186	7,949	237	2.9	8,224	8,021	203	2.5	7,815	7,598	217	2.8
Newberry County	↑	19,039	18,478	561	2.9	19,033	18,564	469	2.5	19,062	18,518	544	2.9
Saluda County	↑	8,739	8,482	257	2.9	8,770	8,549	221	2.5	8,374	8,126	248	3.0
York County	↑	153,391	149,000	4,391	2.9	153,494	149,784	3,710	2.4	147,749	143,140	4,609	3.1
Beaufort County	↑	78,957	76,739	2,218	2.8	78,968	76,983	1,985	2.5	76,221	73,836	2,385	3.1
Jasper County	↑	13,745	13,363	382	2.8	13,750	13,409	341	2.5	13,190	12,799	391	3.0
Oconee County	↑	35,796	34,799	997	2.8	35,809	34,925	884	2.5	34,086	33,073	1,013	3.0
Berkeley County	↑	118,029	114,854	3,175	2.7	116,483	113,767	2,716	2.3	110,388	106,774	3,614	3.3
Greenville County	↑	267,964	260,636	7,328	2.7	267,418	261,128	6,290	2.4	260,738	253,334	7,404	2.8
Dorchester County	↑	85,679	83,440	2,239	2.6	84,543	82,663	1,880	2.2	79,990	77,555	2,435	3.0
Lexington County	↑	154,952	151,007	3,945	2.5	154,513	151,158	3,355	2.2	150,382	146,271	4,111	2.7
Charleston County	↑	232,081	226,508	5,573	2.4	229,309	224,448	4,861	2.1	216,274	210,462	5,812	2.7
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	435,789	424,802	10,987	2.5	430,335	420,878	9,457	2.2	406,652	394,791	11,861	2.9
Columbia MSA	↑	411,337	399,244	12,093	2.9	409,748	399,586	10,162	2.5	399,416	386,960	12,456	3.1
Florence MSA	↑	99,417	96,330	3,087	3.1	98,737	96,102	2,635	2.7	95,381	92,228	3,153	3.3
Greenville - Anderson - Mauldin MSA	↑	453,219	440,239	12,980	2.9	452,029	441,101	10,928	2.4	440,876	427,797	13,079	3.0
Hilton Head Island - Bluffton - Beaufort MSA	↑	92,702	90,102	2,600	2.8	92,718	90,392	2,326	2.5	89,411	86,635	2,776	3.1
Myrtle Beach - Conway - North Myrtle Beach, SC - NC MSA	↑	216,178	208,732	7,446	3.4	217,744	211,040	6,704	3.1	208,762	200,537	8,225	3.9
Spartanburg MSA	↑	170,988	165,830	5,158	3.0	170,223	165,906	4,317	2.5	165,307	159,844	5,463	3.3
Sumter MSA	↑	42,655	41,084	1,571	3.7	42,659	41,306	1,353	3.2	41,503	39,880	1,623	3.9
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	-	2,465,014	2,393,128	71,886	2.9	2,461,527	2,389,880	71,647	2.9	2,371,183	2,293,109	78,074	3.3

Current month's estimates are preliminary. All data are subject to revision.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
- Unemployment Rate =