SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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South Carolina's Employment Situation
December 2023

I. Household Survey[1] (Local Area Unemployment Statistics)

Employment: The seasonally adjusted, monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working increased to 2,401,953.

- That is an increase of 3,616 people over the November 2023 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 107,562 people over the December 2022 estimate.

Unemployment: The estimate of unemployed people increased to 74,852.

- That is an increase of 1,514 people from November's estimate and a decrease of 2,307 from the December 2022 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.0 percent.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7 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 2,476,805.

- That is an increase of 5,130 people over the November 2023 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 105,255 individuals over the December 2022 estimate.

II. Employer Survey[2] (Current Employment Statistics)

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted[3])

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 1,900 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,323,300.

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

From December 2022 to December 2023, South Carolina's economy has picked up 59,600 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

- Industries making strong growth were Education and Health Services (+15,200); Leisure and Hospitality (+10,800); Professional and Business Services (+10,000); Government (+9,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,800); Other Services (+2,600); Financial Activities (+1,700); Construction (+1,000); and Information (+500).
- Manufacturing (-100) declined.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted[4])

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 100 from November 2023 to December 2023 for a total of 2,338,300.

- Trade Transportation and Utilities (+9,200); Other Services (+1,500); Manufacturing (+1,500); Information (+500); and Mining and Logging (+100) industries increased over the month.
- Leisure and Hospitality (-5,000); Professional and Business Services (-2,400); Government (-1,900); Education and Health Services (-1,900); and Construction (-1,500) industries declined.
- The Financial Activities industry (0) showed no change.

Since December 2022, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 62,800 in South Carolina.

- Industries making strong annual gains were Educational and Health Services (+15,100); Professional and Business Services (+13,400); Leisure and Hospitality (+10,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+10,300); Government (+7,200); Other Services (+3,600); Financial Activities (+1,600); Construction (+1,500); Information (+400); and Mining and Logging (+100).
- Manufacturing (-800) declined.

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[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 <u>not</u> been removed from these data.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide

December-23

Jobs by Industry	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023 to December 2023 # Change	November 2023 to December 2023 % Change	December 2022 to December 2023 # Change	December 2022 to December 2023 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	**2,323,300**	**2,321,400**	**2,263,700**	**1,900**	**0.08%**	**59,600**	**2.63%**
Construction	110,500	111,800	109,500	-1,300	-1.16%	1,000	0.91%
Manufacturing	262,400	261,500	262,500	900	0.34%	-100	-0.04%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	446,400	444,000	437,600	2,400	0.54%	8,800	2.01%
Information	32,000	31,800	31,500	200	0.63%	500	1.59%
Financial Activities	121,500	121,300	119,800	200	0.16%	1,700	1.42%
Professional and Business Services	316,400	316,800	306,400	-400	-0.13%	10,000	3.26%
Education and Health Services	287,200	287,300	272,000	-100	-0.03%	15,200	5.59%
Leisure and Hospitality	279,700	281,600	268,900	-1,900	-0.67%	10,800	4.02%
Other Services	85,600	84,300	83,000	1,300	1.54%	2,600	3.13%
Government	377,000	376,500	368,000	500	0.13%	9,000	2.45%

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

December-23

Industry	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023 to December 2023 # Change	November 2023 to December 2023 % Change	December 2022 to December 2023 # Change	December 2022 to December 2023 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	*2,338,300*	*2,338,200*	*2,275,500*	*100*	*0.00%*	*62,800*	*2.76%*
Mining and Logging	4,600	4,500	4,500	100	2.22%	100	2.22%
Construction	110,900	112,400	109,400	-1,500	-1.33%	1,500	1.37%
Manufacturing	263,400	261,900	264,200	1,500	0.57%	-800	-0.30%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	458,200	449,000	447,900	9,200	2.05%	10,300	2.30%
Information	32,000	31,500	31,600	500	1.59%	400	1.27%
Financial Activities	121,300	121,300	119,700	0	0.00%	1,600	1.34%
Professional and Business Services	320,900	323,300	307,500	-2,400	-0.74%	13,400	4.36%
Education and Health Services	288,900	290,800	273,800	-1,900	-0.65%	15,100	5.51%
Leisure and Hospitality	270,800	275,800	260,400	-5,000	-1.81%	10,400	3.99%
Other Services	86,000	84,500	82,400	1,500	1.78%	3,600	4.37%
Government	381,300	383,200	374,100	-1,900	-0.50%	7,200	1.92%

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted

December-23

INDUSTRY TITLE	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023 to December 2023		December 2022 to December 2023	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	**2,323,300**	**2,321,400**	**2,263,700**	**1,900**	**0.08%**	**59,600**	**2.63%**
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	427,100	427,200	404,100	-100	-0.02%	23,000	5.69%
Columbia MSA	424,500	423,100	414,400	1,400	0.33%	10,100	2.44%
Florence MSA	96,900	96,800	94,400	100	0.10%	2,500	2.65%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	460,300	460,700	453,400	-400	-0.09%	6,900	1.52%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	88,700	88,400	87,200	300	0.34%	1,500	1.72%
Myrtle Beach MSA	192,700	192,400	188,600	300	0.16%	4,100	2.17%
Spartanburg MSA	173,300	173,000	168,600	300	0.17%	4,700	2.79%
Sumter MSA	39,700	39,900	39,300	-200	-0.50%	400	1.02%

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Not Seasonally Adjusted

December-23

Area	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	November 2023 to December 2023		December 2022 to December 2023	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	**2,338,300**	**2,338,200**	**2,275,500**	**100**	**0.00%**	**62,800**	**2.76%**
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	429,200	430,600	404,800	-1,400	-0.33%	24,400	6.03%
Columbia MSA	428,000	426,100	418,200	1,900	0.45%	9,800	2.34%
Florence MSA	97,800	97,800	95,500	0	0.00%	2,300	2.41%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	463,000	463,700	456,700	-700	-0.15%	6,300	1.38%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	88,100	88,100	86,800	0	0.00%	1,300	1.50%
Myrtle Beach MSA	188,400	190,700	183,300	-2,300	-1.21%	5,100	2.78%
Spartanburg MSA	175,200	174,300	170,200	900	0.52%	5,000	2.94%
Sumter MSA	40,100	40,100	39,500	0	0.00%	600	1.52%

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

AREA		December 2023 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	November 2023 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	December 2022 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marlboro County	↑	7,242	6,751	491	6.8	7,263	6,800	463	6.4	8,162	7,532	630	7.7
Allendale County	↑	2,303	2,164	139	6.0	2,323	2,196	127	5.5	2,201	2,077	124	5.6
Bamberg County	↓	4,546	4,297	249	5.5	4,588	4,331	257	5.6	4,462	4,249	213	4.8
Barnwell County	↑	7,655	7,252	403	5.3	7,640	7,269	371	4.9	7,333	7,024	309	4.2
Williamsburg County	↑	10,152	9,630	522	5.1	10,185	9,694	491	4.8	10,434	9,950	484	4.6
Marion County	↑	12,645	12,076	569	4.5	12,723	12,201	522	4.1	12,288	11,729	559	4.5
Orangeburg County	–	33,611	32,127	1,484	4.4	33,754	32,278	1,476	4.4	32,408	31,014	1,394	4.3
Fairfield County	↑	9,449	9,046	403	4.3	9,428	9,061	367	3.9	9,044	8,667	377	4.2
Dillon County	↑	13,145	12,589	556	4.2	13,184	12,660	524	4.0	12,651	12,086	565	4.5
Chester County	↑	13,806	13,241	565	4.1	13,846	13,295	551	4.0	13,232	12,710	522	3.9
Clarendon County	↑	12,032	11,538	494	4.1	12,123	11,654	469	3.9	11,640	11,124	516	4.4
Lee County	↑	6,543	6,273	270	4.1	6,555	6,306	249	3.8	6,267	5,982	285	4.5
Cherokee County	↑	23,784	22,840	944	4.0	23,949	23,044	905	3.8	24,053	23,181	872	3.6
Horry County	↑	154,429	148,480	5,949	3.9	155,696	150,506	5,190	3.3	147,297	141,572	5,725	3.9
Union County	↑	11,591	11,136	455	3.9	11,527	11,100	427	3.7	11,123	10,641	482	4.3
Sumter County	↑	42,929	41,307	1,622	3.8	42,914	41,355	1,559	3.6	41,488	39,835	1,653	4.0
Georgetown County	↑	25,867	24,946	921	3.6	26,070	25,214	856	3.3	25,347	24,443	904	3.6
Abbeville County	–	9,686	9,351	335	3.5	9,651	9,313	338	3.5	9,490	9,161	329	3.5
Lancaster County	↑	45,176	43,610	1,566	3.5	45,247	43,763	1,484	3.3	43,284	41,839	1,445	3.3
McCormick County	↑	3,456	3,335	121	3.5	3,431	3,323	108	3.1	3,535	3,422	113	3.2
Chesterfield County	↑	21,312	20,577	735	3.4	21,417	20,725	692	3.2	20,689	20,000	689	3.3
Darlington County	↑	30,796	29,762	1,034	3.4	30,961	29,970	991	3.2	29,441	28,489	952	3.2
Laurens County	↑	30,986	29,929	1,057	3.4	31,063	30,081	982	3.2	29,806	28,893	913	3.1
Greenwood County	–	30,356	29,345	1,011	3.3	30,269	29,265	1,004	3.3	29,778	28,779	999	3.4
Calhoun County	–	6,569	6,358	211	3.2	6,593	6,380	213	3.2	6,295	6,085	210	3.3
Edgefield County	↑	10,260	9,928	332	3.2	10,326	10,007	319	3.1	10,032	9,712	320	3.2
Newberry County	↑	18,779	18,187	592	3.2	18,910	18,366	544	2.9	18,748	18,256	492	2.6
Aiken County	↑	73,435	71,156	2,279	3.1	73,545	71,336	2,209	3.0	71,954	69,814	2,140	3.0
Colleton County	↑	16,115	15,621	494	3.1	16,205	15,732	473	2.9	15,625	15,117	508	3.3
Kershaw County	↑	30,176	29,247	929	3.1	30,197	29,286	911	3.0	28,898	28,023	875	3.0
Richland County	↑	203,347	197,038	6,309	3.1	202,783	196,606	6,177	3.0	194,739	189,038	5,701	2.9
Florence County	↑	68,587	66,496	2,091	3.0	68,788	66,777	2,011	2.9	65,525	63,636	1,889	2.9
Saluda County	↑	8,524	8,270	254	3.0	8,655	8,409	246	2.8	8,124	7,892	232	2.9
Beaufort County	↑	78,663	76,354	2,309	2.9	78,841	76,647	2,194	2.8	75,873	73,634	2,239	3.0
Hampton County	↑	8,048	7,816	232	2.9	8,123	7,897	226	2.8	7,703	7,493	210	2.7
Oconee County	↑	35,464	34,443	1,021	2.9	35,839	34,855	984	2.7	33,564	32,627	937	2.8
Pickens County	↓	59,682	57,936	1,746	2.9	59,920	58,132	1,788	3.0	57,523	55,960	1,563	2.7
Spartanburg County	–	160,525	155,821	4,704	2.9	159,862	155,278	4,584	2.9	153,390	148,976	4,414	2.9
York County	↑	153,570	149,173	4,397	2.9	153,885	149,515	4,370	2.8	147,261	143,130	4,131	2.8
Anderson County	↑	94,072	91,416	2,656	2.8	94,325	91,759	2,566	2.7	90,821	88,332	2,489	2.7
Greenville County	↑	267,941	260,467	7,474	2.8	268,576	261,335	7,241	2.7	258,383	251,722	6,661	2.6
Jasper County	–	13,590	13,205	385	2.8	13,671	13,288	383	2.8	13,030	12,674	356	2.7
Berkeley County	↑	118,507	115,328	3,179	2.7	118,929	115,813	3,116	2.6	109,916	106,942	2,974	2.7
Dorchester County	↑	85,965	83,723	2,242	2.6	86,269	84,103	2,166	2.5	79,655	77,628	2,027	2.5
Lexington County	↑	155,685	151,776	3,909	2.5	155,552	151,766	3,786	2.4	149,199	145,450	3,749	2.5
Charleston County	–	232,547	226,936	5,611	2.4	233,537	228,038	5,499	2.4	215,648	210,308	5,340	2.5
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	–	437,019	425,987	11,032	2.5	438,735	427,954	10,781	2.5	405,219	394,878	10,341	2.6
Columbia MSA	↑	413,750	401,735	12,015	2.9	413,208	401,508	11,700	2.8	396,299	385,155	11,144	2.8
Florence MSA	↑	99,383	96,258	3,125	3.1	99,749	96,747	3,002	3.0	94,966	92,125	2,841	3.0
Greenville -Anderson-Mauldin MSA	↑	452,681	439,748	12,933	2.9	453,884	441,307	12,577	2.8	436,533	424,907	11,626	2.7
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	↑	92,253	89,559	2,694	2.9	92,512	89,935	2,577	2.8	88,903	86,308	2,595	2.9
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC MSA	↑	211,470	203,192	8,278	3.9	213,648	206,026	7,622	3.6	203,054	195,002	8,052	4.0
Spartanburg MSA	↑	172,116	166,957	5,159	3.0	171,389	166,378	5,011	2.9	164,513	159,617	4,896	3.0
Sumter MSA	↑	42,929	41,307	1,622	3.8	42,914	41,355	1,559	3.6	41,488	39,835	1,653	4.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	–	2,476,805	2,401,953	74,852	3.0	2,471,675	2,398,337	73,338	3.0	2,371,550	2,294,391	77,159	3.3

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

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
– Unemployment Rate =