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For Release
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South Carolina's Employment Situation May 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 2,344,922.

- That is a significant increase of 14,295 people over the April 2023 estimate.
- That is an increase of 38,835 people over the May 2022 estimate.

Unemployment: The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 75,629.

- That is a decrease of 13 people from April's estimate and an increase of 496 from the May 2022 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.1 percent.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate increased from April's rate of 3.4 percent to 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 2,420,551.

- That is a significant increase of 14,282 people over the April estimate.
- That is an increase of 39,331 individuals over the May 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 8,600 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,300,600.

- Industries that reported gains were Leisure and Hospitality (+2,900); Education and Health Services (+2,300); Financial Activities (+1,500); Professional and Business Services (+1,400); Other Services (+900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+900); Construction (+400); and Information (+400).
- Government (-1,300) and Manufacturing (-800) industries declined.

From May 2022 to May 2023, South Carolina's economy has picked up 63,200 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

- Industries with strong growth were Leisure and Hospitality (+17,000); Education and Health Services (+14,900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+7,300); Professional and Business Services (+6,400); Government (+5,600); Financial Activities (+4,900); Information (+2,700); Construction (+2,200); Other Services (+1,700); and Manufacturing (+400).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted⁴)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 18,300 from April 2023 to May 2023 for a total of 2,305,400.

- Leisure and Hospitality (+9,200); Professional and Business Services (+3,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,600); Education and Health Services (+2,600); Financial Activities (+1,400); Construction (+1,300) and Other Services (+1,300); and Information (+800); industries increased over the month.
- Government (-3,900) and Manufacturing (-500) industries marked declines.
- The Mining and Logging industry show no change.

Since May 2022, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 59,200 in South Carolina.

Industries making strong annual gains were Leisure and Hospitality (+15,300); Educational and Health Services (+14,600); Professional and Business Services (+6,600); Government (+6,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+5,600); Financial Activities (+4,400); Information (+3,100); Construction (+1,600); Other Services (+900); Manufacturing (+600); and Mining and Logging (+100).

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

May-23

Jobs by Industry	May 2023	April 2023	May 2022	April 2023 to May 2023		May 2022 to May 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,300,600	2,292,000	2,237,400	8,600	0.38%	63,200	2.82%
Construction	110,200	109,800	108,000	400	0.36%	2,200	2.04%
Manufacturing	261,200	262,000	260,800	-800	-0.31%	400	0.15%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	440,300	439,400	433,000	900	0.20%	7,300	1.69%
Information	32,700	32,300	30,000	400	1.24%	2,700	9.00%
Financial Activities	122,200	120,700	117,300	1,500	1.24%	4,900	4.18%
Professional and Business Services	315,500	314,100	309,100	1,400	0.45%	6,400	2.07%
Education and Health Services	278,600	276,300	263,700	2,300	0.83%	14,900	5.65%
Leisure and Hospitality	279,900	277,000	262,900	2,900	1.05%	17,000	6.47%
Other Services	83,300	82,400	81,600	900	1.09%	1,700	2.08%
Government	372,200	373,500	366,600	-1,300	-0.35%	5,600	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 INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide

May-23

Industry	May 2023	April 2023	May 2022	April 2023 to May 2023		May 2022 to May 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,305,400	2,287,100	2,246,200	18,300	0.80%	59,200	2.64%
Mining and Logging	4,500	4,500	4,400	0	0.00%	100	2.27%
Construction	110,200	108,900	108,600	1,300	1.19%	1,600	1.47%
Manufacturing	260,400	260,900	259,800	-500	-0.19%	600	0.23%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	438,200	435,600	432,600	2,600	0.60%	5,600	1.29%
Information	33,200	32,400	30,100	800	2.47%	3,100	10.30%
Financial Activities	122,000	120,600	117,600	1,400	1.16%	4,400	3.74%
Professional and Business Services	314,800	311,300	308,200	3,500	1.12%	6,600	2.14%
Education and Health Services	279,000	276,400	264,400	2,600	0.94%	14,600	5.52%
Leisure and Hospitality	285,600	276,400	270,300	9,200	3.33%	15,300	5.66%
Other Services	83,000	81,700	82,100	1,300	1.59%	900	1.10%
Government	374,500	378,400	368,100	-3,900	-1.03%	6,400	1.74%

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
South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted

May-23

INDUSTRY TITLE	May 2023	April 2023	May 2022	April 2023 to May 2023		May 2022 to May 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,300,600	2,292,000	2,237,400	8,600	0.38%	63,200	2.82%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	413,900	413,000	391,500	900	0.22%	22,400	5.72%
Columbia MSA	418,900	417,100	413,100	1,800	0.43%	5,800	1.40%
Florence MSA	95,400	95,400	94,000	0	0.00%	1,400	1.49%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	460,400	458,600	448,200	1,800	0.39%	12,200	2.72%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	86,700	86,100	84,900	600	0.70%	1,800	2.12%
Myrtle Beach MSA	190,600	189,700	182,000	900	0.47%	8,600	4.73%
Spartanburg MSA	170,900	170,300	167,100	600	0.35%	3,800	2.27%
Sumter MSA	39,300	39,300	39,000	0	0.00%	300	0.77%

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

May-23

Area	May 2023	April 2023	May 2022	April 2023 to May 2023		May 2022 to May 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,305,400	2,287,100	2,246,200	18,300	0.80%	59,200	2.64%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	415,200	412,900	392,200	2,300	0.56%	23,000	5.86%
Columbia MSA	419,800	416,500	414,100	3,300	0.79%	5,700	1.38%
Florence MSA	95,900	95,300	94,400	600	0.63%	1,500	1.59%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	459,300	456,900	449,000	2,400	0.53%	10,300	2.29%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	87,600	86,200	85,800	1,400	1.62%	1,800	2.10%
Myrtle Beach MSA	194,500	191,300	185,800	3,200	1.67%	8,700	4.68%
Spartanburg MSA	171,200	170,400	167,300	800	0.47%	3,900	2.33%
Sumter MSA	39,500	39,400	39,200	100	0.25%	300	0.77%

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

AREA	May 2023					April 2023					May 2022				
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)
			LEVEL					LEVEL					LEVEL		
Marlboro County	—	7,315	6,817	498	6.8	7,313	6,817	496	6.8	8,232	7,789	443	5.4		
Bamberg County	↑	4,609	4,376	233	5.1	4,536	4,354	182	4.0	4,603	4,378	225	4.9		
Allendale County	↑	2,364	2,255	109	4.6	2,331	2,238	93	4.0	2,289	2,176	113	4.9		
Dillon County	↑	13,098	12,541	557	4.3	12,951	12,452	499	3.9	12,952	12,421	531	4.1		
Williamsburg County	↑	10,732	10,273	459	4.3	10,632	10,239	393	3.7	10,974	10,530	444	4.0		
Greenwood County	↑	29,959	28,714	1,245	4.2	29,627	28,765	862	2.9	29,560	28,571	989	3.3		
Marion County	↑	12,828	12,291	537	4.2	12,719	12,241	478	3.8	12,714	12,170	544	4.3		
Orangeburg County	↑	33,195	31,845	1,350	4.1	33,021	31,864	1,157	3.5	33,102	31,538	1,564	4.7		
Abbeville County	↑	9,501	9,128	373	3.9	9,450	9,161	289	3.1	9,396	9,072	324	3.4		
Barnwell County	↑	7,801	7,493	308	3.9	7,737	7,488	249	3.2	7,520	7,200	320	4.3		
Cherokee County	↓	23,632	22,731	901	3.8	24,176	23,022	1,154	4.8	24,105	23,141	964	4.0		
Lee County	↑	6,428	6,182	246	3.8	6,372	6,160	212	3.3	6,439	6,167	272	4.2		
Union County	↑	11,429	10,997	432	3.8	11,422	11,006	416	3.6	11,131	10,710	421	3.8		
Clarendon County	↑	12,154	11,704	450	3.7	12,071	11,674	397	3.3	12,223	11,800	423	3.5		
Fairfield County	↑	9,314	8,974	340	3.7	9,234	8,942	292	3.2	9,252	8,868	384	4.2		
Chester County	↑	13,734	13,233	501	3.6	13,574	13,151	423	3.1	13,299	12,806	493	3.7		
Sumter County	↑	42,443	40,941	1,502	3.5	42,400	41,115	1,285	3.0	42,006	40,559	1,447	3.4		
McCormick County	↑	3,468	3,353	115	3.3	3,462	3,365	97	2.8	3,433	3,326	107	3.1		
Calhoun County	↑	6,518	6,317	201	3.1	6,476	6,294	182	2.8	6,473	6,269	204	3.2		
Darlington County	↑	30,544	29,603	941	3.1	30,262	29,474	788	2.6	30,143	29,190	953	3.2		
Colleton County	↑	16,200	15,708	492	3.0	16,136	15,716	420	2.6	15,866	15,367	499	3.1		
Edgefield County	↑	10,449	10,131	318	3.0	10,389	10,122	267	2.6	10,411	10,110	301	2.9		
Horry County	↑	158,735	153,905	4,830	3.0	156,699	152,380	4,319	2.8	152,340	147,345	4,995	3.3		
Lancaster County	↑	44,877	43,530	1,347	3.0	44,460	43,297	1,163	2.6	43,505	42,131	1,374	3.2		
Laurens County	↑	30,858	29,919	939	3.0	30,740	29,931	809	2.6	30,187	29,255	932	3.1		
Georgetown County	↑	26,738	25,955	783	2.9	26,369	25,691	678	2.6	26,402	25,546	856	3.2		
Pickens County	↑	59,566	57,814	1,752	2.9	59,378	57,881	1,497	2.5	58,146	56,365	1,781	3.1		
Richland County	↑	200,596	194,727	5,869	2.9	199,247	194,283	4,964	2.5	197,163	191,119	6,044	3.1		
Aiken County	↑	74,420	72,314	2,106	2.8	74,132	72,370	1,762	2.4	73,622	71,477	2,145	2.9		
Chesterfield County	↑	21,632	21,023	609	2.8	21,441	20,932	509	2.4	21,439	20,781	658	3.1		
Florence County	↑	67,779	65,883	1,896	2.8	67,366	65,735	1,631	2.4	66,688	64,750	1,938	2.9		
Kershaw County	↑	29,836	29,004	832	2.8	29,627	28,907	720	2.4	29,522	28,652	870	2.9		
Anderson County	↑	93,787	91,295	2,492	2.7	93,454	91,355	2,099	2.2	91,488	89,001	2,487	2.7		
Saluda County	↑	8,566	8,337	229	2.7	8,456	8,257	199	2.4	8,650	8,441	209	2.4		
Spartanburg County	↑	158,198	153,873	4,325	2.7	157,901	153,974	3,927	2.5	154,142	149,697	4,445	2.9		
York County	↑	152,752	148,680	4,072	2.7	151,487	147,986	3,501	2.3	147,867	143,631	4,236	2.9		
Beaufort County	↑	78,449	76,439	2,010	2.6	77,517	75,800	1,717	2.2	77,142	75,023	2,119	2.7		
Berkeley County	↑	115,345	112,390	2,955	2.6	114,874	112,382	2,492	2.2	109,075	105,779	3,296	3.0		
Greenville County	↑	266,853	260,022	6,831	2.6	266,138	260,225	5,913	2.2	259,987	253,290	6,697	2.6		
Hampton County	↑	8,044	7,835	209	2.6	7,959	7,781	178	2.2	7,952	7,739	213	2.7		
Newberry County	↑	19,345	18,847	498	2.6	19,164	18,761	403	2.1	19,367	18,885	482	2.5		
Oconee County	↑	35,450	34,555	895	2.5	35,258	34,498	760	2.2	34,183	33,261	922	2.7		
Dorchester County	↑	83,662	81,613	2,049	2.4	83,311	81,608	1,703	2.0	79,120	76,889	2,231	2.8		
Jasper County	↑	13,521	13,202	319	2.4	13,399	13,129	270	2.0	13,457	13,081	376	2.8		
Lexington County	↑	153,899	150,260	3,639	2.4	152,952	149,871	3,081	2.0	151,784	148,110	3,674	2.4		
Charleston County	↑	226,332	221,186	5,146	2.3	225,781	221,335	4,446	2.0	214,424	209,012	5,412	2.5		
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	425,339	415,189	10,150	2.4	423,966	415,325	8,641	2.0	402,619	391,680	10,939	2.7		
Columbia MSA	↑	408,729	397,619	11,110	2.7	405,992	396,554	9,438	2.3	402,844	391,459	11,385	2.8		
Florence MSA	↑	98,323	95,486	2,837	2.9	97,628	95,209	2,419	2.5	96,831	93,940	2,891	3.0		
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↑	451,064	439,050	12,014	2.7	449,710	439,392	10,318	2.3	439,808	427,911	11,897	2.7		
Hilton Head Island- Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	↑	91,970	89,641	2,329	2.5	90,916	88,929	1,987	2.2	90,599	88,104	2,495	2.8		
Myrtle Beach-Conway- North Myrtle Beach, SC- NC MSA	↑	218,394	211,157	7,237	3.3	215,498	208,997	6,501	3.0	210,205	202,625	7,580	3.6		
Spartanburg MSA	↑	169,627	164,870	4,757	2.8	169,323	164,980	4,343	2.6	165,273	160,407	4,866	2.9		
Sumter MSA	↑	42,443	40,941	1,502	3.5	42,400	41,115	1,285	3.0	42,006	40,559	1,447	3.4		
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED															
South Carolina	—	2,420,551	2,344,922	75,629	3.1	2,406,269	2,330,627	75,642	3.1	2,381,220	2,306,087	75,133	3.2		

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

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