SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Release
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South Carolina's Employment Situation
September 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 2,389,899.

- That is a significant increase of 7,490 people over the August 2023 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 95,982 people over the September 2022 estimate.

Unemployment: The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 71,699.

- That is a decrease of 1,347 people from August's estimate and a decrease of 6,738 from the September 2022 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 2.9 percent from August's estimate of 3.0 percent.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 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 2,461,568.

- That is an increase of 6,143 people over the August estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 89,244 individuals over the September 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 3,400 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,308,300.

- Industries reporting gains were Education and Health Services (+3,100): Professional and Business Services (+400); Government (+400); Financial Activities (+200); Leisure and Hospitality (+200); and Other Services (+200).

- The Construction (-500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-500); and Information (-100) industries declined.

- The Manufacturing industry marked no change over the month.

From September 2022 to September 2023, South Carolina's economy has picked up 39,500 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

- Industries making strong growth were Education and Health Services (+14,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+8,300); Government (+7,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,900); Financial Activities (+2,100); Construction (+1,300); Information (+1,000); and Other Services (+600).

- Manufacturing (-1,600) and Professional and Business Services (-200) declined.

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

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 2,100 from August 2023 to September 2023 for a total of 2,309,700.

- Government (+9,800); Education and Health Services (+4,900); and Professional and Business Services (+3,100) industries increased over the month.
- Leisure and Hospitality (-10,400); Construction (-2,300); Trade Transportation and Utilities (-2,200): Information (-400); Other Services (-300); and Manufacturing (-100) industries declined.
- Mining and Logging and Financial Activities showed no change over the month.

Since September 2022, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 47,000 in South Carolina.

Industries making strong annual gains were Educational and Health Services (+15,800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,700); Leisure and Hospitality (+8,300); Government (+6,700); Financial Activities (+3,100); Professional and Business Services (+3,000); Other Services (+1,000); Information (+600); Construction (+400); and Mining and Logging (+100).

The Manufacturing industry declined (-700).

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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 not been removed from these data.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide

September-23

Jobs by Industry	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	August 2023 to September 2023 # Change	August 2023 to September 2023 % Change	September 2022 to September 2023 # Change	September 2022 to September 2023 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	**2,308,300**	**2,304,900**	**2,268,800**	**3,400**	**0.15%**	**39,500**	**1.74%**
Construction	111,200	111,700	109,900	-500	-0.45%	1,300	1.18%
Manufacturing	261,400	261,400	263,000	0	0.00%	-1,600	-0.61%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	444,000	444,500	437,100	-500	-0.11%	6,900	1.58%
Information	31,800	31,900	30,800	-100	-0.31%	1,000	3.25%
Financial Activities	121,500	121,300	119,400	200	0.16%	2,100	1.76%
Professional and Business Services	313,500	313,100	313,700	400	0.13%	-200	-0.06%
Education and Health Services	285,500	282,400	271,500	3,100	1.10%	14,000	5.16%
Leisure and Hospitality	275,600	275,400	267,300	200	0.07%	8,300	3.11%
Other Services	83,200	83,000	82,600	200	0.24%	600	0.73%
Government	376,000	375,600	369,000	400	0.11%	7,000	1.90%

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

September-23

Industry	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	August 2023 to September 2023 # Change	August 2023 to September 2023 % Change	September 2022 to September 2023 # Change	September 2022 to September 2023 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	*2,309,700*	*2,307,600*	*2,262,700*	*2,100*	*0.09%*	*47,000*	*2.08%*
Mining and Logging	4,600	4,600	4,500	0	0.00%	100	2.22%
Construction	110,100	112,400	109,700	-2,300	-2.05%	400	0.36%
Manufacturing	262,100	262,200	262,800	-100	-0.04%	-700	-0.27%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	441,400	443,600	432,700	-2,200	-0.50%	8,700	2.01%
Information	31,500	31,900	30,900	-400	-1.25%	600	1.94%
Financial Activities	121,900	121,900	118,800	0	0.00%	3,100	2.61%
Professional and Business Services	314,200	311,100	311,200	3,100	1.00%	3,000	0.96%
Education and Health Services	285,800	280,900	270,000	4,900	1.74%	15,800	5.85%
Leisure and Hospitality	277,400	287,800	269,100	-10,400	-3.61%	8,300	3.08%
Other Services	83,500	83,800	82,500	-300	-0.36%	1,000	1.21%
Government	377,200	367,400	370,500	9,800	2.67%	6,700	1.81%

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

September-23

INDUSTRY TITLE	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	August 2023 to September 2023 # Change	% Change	September 2022 to September 2023 # Change	% Change
Statewide	**2,308,300**	**2,304,900**	**2,268,800**	**3,400**	**0.15%**	**39,500**	**1.74%**
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	422,100	416,800	401,500	5,300	1.27%	20,600	5.13%
Columbia MSA	419,800	419,900	418,900	-100	-0.02%	900	0.21%
Florence MSA	96,500	96,500	94,400	0	0.00%	2,100	2.22%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	459,300	460,200	455,200	-900	-0.20%	4,100	0.90%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	87,900	87,400	85,700	500	0.57%	2,200	2.57%
Myrtle Beach MSA	192,200	191,800	186,800	400	0.21%	5,400	2.89%
Spartanburg MSA	172,000	171,400	168,700	600	0.35%	3,300	1.96%
Sumter MSA	40,000	39,900	39,300	100	0.25%	700	1.78%

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

September-23

Area	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	August 2023 to September 2023 # Change	% Change	September 2022 to September 2023 # Change	% Change
Statewide	**2,309,700**	**2,307,600**	**2,262,700**	**2,100**	**0.09%**	**47,000**	**2.08%**
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	420,900	416,900	399,700	4,000	0.96%	21,200	5.30%
Columbia MSA	420,500	417,900	415,700	2,600	0.62%	4,800	1.15%
Florence MSA	96,500	96,400	94,200	100	0.10%	2,300	2.44%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	459,300	459,500	452,800	-200	-0.04%	6,500	1.44%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	87,400	89,100	85,700	-1,700	-1.91%	1,700	1.98%
Myrtle Beach MSA	193,200	196,000	187,800	-2,800	-1.43%	5,400	2.88%
Spartanburg MSA	172,400	170,900	168,300	1,500	0.88%	4,100	2.44%
Sumter MSA	39,800	39,700	39,100	100	0.25%	700	1.79%

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

AREA		September 2023 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	August 2023 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	September 2022 LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marlboro County	↓	7,382	6,947	435	5.9	7,427	6,971	456	6.1	7,957	7,517	440	5.5
Bamberg County	−	4,619	4,398	221	4.8	4,596	4,376	220	4.8	4,517	4,296	221	4.9
Allendale County	↓	2,344	2,242	102	4.4	2,293	2,190	103	4.5	2,262	2,149	113	5.0
Barnwell County	↑	7,712	7,407	305	4.0	7,712	7,435	277	3.6	7,422	7,118	304	4.1
Orangeburg County	−	33,537	32,236	1,301	3.9	33,422	32,125	1,297	3.9	32,633	31,141	1,492	4.6
Williamsburg County	↓	10,453	10,042	411	3.9	10,571	10,140	431	4.1	10,602	10,148	454	4.3
Dillon County	↑	13,318	12,843	475	3.6	13,394	12,926	468	3.5	12,668	12,174	494	3.9
Marion County	↓	12,744	12,281	463	3.6	12,849	12,357	492	3.8	12,500	11,951	549	4.4
Fairfield County	−	9,372	9,044	328	3.5	9,373	9,046	327	3.5	9,139	8,745	394	4.3
Cherokee County	↓	23,104	22,321	783	3.4	23,170	22,333	837	3.6	23,918	23,029	889	3.7
Chester County	↑	13,804	13,328	476	3.4	13,941	13,483	458	3.3	13,162	12,659	503	3.8
Union County	↓	11,460	11,079	381	3.3	11,484	11,089	395	3.4	11,133	10,638	495	4.4
Clarendon County	−	12,249	11,852	397	3.2	12,194	11,799	395	3.2	11,852	11,403	449	3.8
Sumter County	↑	42,715	41,360	1,355	3.2	42,809	41,556	1,253	2.9	41,335	39,864	1,471	3.6
Abbeville County	↑	9,534	9,237	297	3.1	9,522	9,242	280	2.9	9,382	9,045	337	3.6
Lee County	↓	6,547	6,343	204	3.1	6,565	6,357	208	3.2	6,324	6,057	267	4.2
McCormick County	↑	3,411	3,310	101	3.0	3,387	3,295	92	2.7	3,536	3,417	119	3.4
Calhoun County	↑	6,575	6,386	189	2.9	6,540	6,362	178	2.7	6,371	6,158	213	3.3
Chesterfield County	↑	21,508	20,892	616	2.9	21,537	20,927	610	2.8	20,836	20,142	694	3.3
Greenwood County	↑	29,933	29,063	870	2.9	29,916	29,137	779	2.6	29,475	28,447	1,028	3.5
Lancaster County	↑	45,185	43,856	1,329	2.9	45,564	44,292	1,272	2.8	43,083	41,655	1,428	3.3
Darlington County	↑	30,774	29,917	857	2.8	30,902	30,084	818	2.6	29,546	28,594	952	3.2
Horry County	↑	158,050	153,623	4,427	2.8	160,565	156,421	4,144	2.6	151,407	146,372	5,035	3.3
Laurens County	↑	30,931	30,053	878	2.8	31,037	30,231	806	2.6	29,952	29,032	920	3.1
Edgefield County	↑	10,432	10,149	283	2.7	10,344	10,098	246	2.4	10,199	9,854	345	3.4
Georgetown County	↑	27,291	26,541	750	2.7	27,634	26,923	711	2.6	25,979	25,139	840	3.2
Aiken County	↑	73,826	71,870	1,956	2.6	73,962	72,145	1,817	2.5	72,431	70,284	2,147	3.0
Colleton County	−	16,407	15,984	423	2.6	16,364	15,945	419	2.6	15,825	15,327	498	3.1
Florence County	↑	68,241	66,463	1,778	2.6	68,454	66,815	1,639	2.4	65,634	63,654	1,980	3.0
Kershaw County	↑	30,010	29,219	791	2.6	29,951	29,232	719	2.4	29,167	28,264	903	3.1
Richland County	↑	200,521	195,231	5,290	2.6	201,274	196,381	4,893	2.4	195,583	189,677	5,906	3.0
Anderson County	↑	93,829	91,495	2,334	2.5	94,457	92,317	2,140	2.3	91,097	88,558	2,539	2.8
Beaufort County	↑	78,828	76,839	1,989	2.5	80,283	78,416	1,867	2.3	76,022	73,824	2,198	2.9
Hampton County	↑	8,068	7,865	203	2.5	8,087	7,909	178	2.2	7,821	7,626	195	2.5
Jasper County	↑	13,726	13,385	341	2.5	13,740	13,436	304	2.2	13,138	12,783	355	2.7
Oconee County	↑	36,080	35,194	886	2.5	36,146	35,313	833	2.3	34,097	33,136	961	2.8
Saluda County	↑	8,769	8,548	221	2.5	8,604	8,407	197	2.3	8,363	8,133	230	2.8
Spartanburg County	↑	158,840	154,893	3,947	2.5	159,114	155,273	3,841	2.4	153,202	148,834	4,368	2.9
Greenville County	↑	266,741	260,441	6,300	2.4	268,674	262,948	5,726	2.1	258,912	252,211	6,701	2.6
Newberry County	↑	19,470	19,000	470	2.4	19,391	18,945	446	2.3	19,005	18,528	477	2.5
Pickens County	↑	59,386	57,954	1,432	2.4	59,739	58,410	1,329	2.2	57,719	56,090	1,629	2.8
York County	↑	153,349	149,619	3,730	2.4	154,784	151,227	3,557	2.3	146,523	142,264	4,259	2.9
Berkeley County	↑	116,610	113,890	2,720	2.3	116,768	114,214	2,554	2.2	109,800	106,548	3,252	3.0
Dorchester County	↑	84,634	82,752	1,882	2.2	84,665	82,910	1,755	2.1	79,587	77,389	2,198	2.8
Lexington County	↑	154,519	151,156	3,363	2.2	154,465	151,382	3,083	2.0	150,130	146,421	3,709	2.5
Charleston County	↑	229,544	224,678	4,866	2.1	228,916	224,238	4,678	2.0	215,356	209,945	5,411	2.5
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	430,788	421,320	9,468	2.2	430,349	421,362	8,987	2.1	404,743	393,882	10,861	2.7
Columbia MSA	↑	409,766	399,584	10,182	2.5	410,207	400,810	9,397	2.3	398,753	387,398	11,355	2.8
Florence MSA	↑	99,015	96,380	2,635	2.7	99,356	96,899	2,457	2.5	95,180	92,248	2,932	3.1
Greenville -Anderson-Mauldin MSA	↑	450,887	439,943	10,944	2.4	453,907	443,906	10,001	2.2	437,680	425,891	11,789	2.7
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	↑	92,554	90,224	2,330	2.5	94,023	91,852	2,171	2.3	89,160	86,607	2,553	2.9
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC MSA	↑	217,866	211,153	6,713	3.1	220,716	214,086	6,630	3.0	209,593	202,097	7,496	3.6
Spartanburg MSA	−	170,300	165,972	4,328	2.5	170,598	166,362	4,236	2.5	164,335	159,472	4,863	3.0
Sumter MSA	↑	42,715	41,360	1,355	3.2	42,809	41,556	1,253	2.9	41,335	39,864	1,471	3.6
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,461,568	2,389,899	71,669	2.9	2,455,425	2,382,409	73,016	3.0	2,372,324	2,293,917	78,407	3.3

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

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
− Unemployment Rate =