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## **South Carolina's Employment Situation August 2023**

### **I. Household Survey<sup>1</sup> (Local Area Unemployment Statistics)**

Employment: The seasonally adjusted, monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working increased to 2,382,362.

- That is a significant increase of 11,380 people over the July 2023 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 85,952 people over the August 2022 estimate.

Unemployment: The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 73,032.

- That is a significant decrease of 4,039 people from July's estimate and a decrease of 5,058 from the August 2022 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 3.0 percent from July's estimate of 3.1 percent.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate increased to 3.8 percent from July's rate of 3.5 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 2,455,394.

- That is an increase of 7,341 people over the July estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 80,894 individuals over the August 2022 estimate.

### **II. Employer Survey<sup>2</sup> (Current Employment Statistics)**

#### **Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted<sup>3</sup>)**

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated decrease of 3,700 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,303,100.

- Industries reporting gains were Construction (+2,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+800); and Education and Health Services (+500).
- Government (-1,900); Manufacturing (-1,800); Professional and Business Services (-1,700); Financial Activities (-900); Other Services (-800); Leisure and Hospitality (-400); and Information (-200) industries declined.

From August 2022 to August 2023, South Carolina's economy has picked up 46,300 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

- Industries making strong growth were Education and Health Services (+12,700); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+9,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+9,300); Government (+7,100); Construction (+4,100); Financial Activities (+3,000); Information (+1,300); Professional and Business Services (+1,100); Other Services (+200).
- Manufacturing declined (-2,400).

#### **Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>4</sup>)**

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 3,700 from July 2023 to August 2023 for a total of 2,306,600.

- Education and Health Services (+2,500); Construction (+2,400); Government (+1,200); Professional and Business Services (+500); and Mining and Logging (+100) industries increased over the month.
- Leisure and Hospitality (-4,600); Manufacturing (-2,500); Financial Activities (-1,600); Other Services (-800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-500); and Information (-400) industries marked declines.

Since August 2022, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 50,400 in South Carolina.

Industries making strong annual gains were Educational and Health Services (+13,700); Leisure and Hospitality (+11,900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+10,800); Government (+5,800); Construction (+4,500); Financial Activities (+3,000); Information (+900); Professional and Business Services (+900); Other Services (+800); and Mining and Logging (+100).

The Manufacturing industry declined (-2,000).

<sup>1</sup>**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.

<sup>2</sup>**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.

<sup>3</sup>**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.

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

**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

Statewide

August-23

Jobs by Industry	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023 to August 2023		August 2022 to August 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>2,303,100</b>	<b>2,306,800</b>	<b>2,256,800</b>	<b>-3,700</b>	<b>-0.16%</b>	<b>46,300</b>	<b>2.05%</b>
Construction	113,400	110,800	109,300	2,600	2.35%	4,100	3.75%
Manufacturing	260,600	262,400	263,000	-1,800	-0.69%	-2,400	-0.91%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	445,000	444,200	435,200	800	0.18%	9,800	2.25%
Information	31,900	32,100	30,600	-200	-0.62%	1,300	4.25%
Financial Activities	121,600	122,500	118,600	-900	-0.73%	3,000	2.53%
Professional and Business Services	312,900	314,600	311,800	-1,700	-0.54%	1,100	0.35%
Education and Health Services	281,500	281,000	268,800	500	0.18%	12,700	4.72%
Leisure and Hospitality	275,600	276,000	266,300	-400	-0.14%	9,300	3.49%
Other Services	82,700	83,500	82,500	-800	-0.96%	200	0.24%
Government	373,300	375,200	366,200	-1,900	-0.51%	7,100	1.94%

**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

August-23

Industry	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023 to August 2023		August 2022 to August 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>2,306,600</b>	<b>2,310,300</b>	<b>2,256,200</b>	<b>-3,700</b>	<b>-0.16%</b>	<b>50,400</b>	<b>2.23%</b>
Mining and Logging	4,600	4,500	4,500	100	2.22%	100	2.22%
Construction	114,200	111,800	109,700	2,400	2.15%	4,500	4.10%
Manufacturing	261,500	264,000	263,500	-2,500	-0.95%	-2,000	-0.76%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	444,100	444,600	433,300	-500	-0.11%	10,800	2.49%
Information	31,900	32,300	31,000	-400	-1.24%	900	2.90%
Financial Activities	122,300	123,900	119,300	-1,600	-1.29%	3,000	2.51%
Professional and Business Services	311,000	310,500	310,100	500	0.16%	900	0.29%
Education and Health Services	281,300	278,800	267,600	2,500	0.90%	13,700	5.12%
Leisure and Hospitality	288,100	292,700	276,200	-4,600	-1.57%	11,900	4.31%
Other Services	83,500	84,300	82,700	-800	-0.95%	800	0.97%
Government	364,100	362,900	358,300	1,200	0.33%	5,800	1.62%

**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**  
**August-23**

INDUSTRY TITLE	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023 to August 2023		August 2022 to August 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,303,100</b>	<b>2,306,800</b>	<b>2,256,800</b>	<b>-3,700</b>	<b>-0.16%</b>	<b>46,300</b>	<b>2.05%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	416,300	418,100	398,200	-1,800	-0.43%	18,100	4.55%
Columbia MSA	420,800	420,400	417,100	400	0.10%	3,700	0.89%
Florence MSA	96,300	96,400	94,100	-100	-0.10%	2,200	2.34%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	459,500	459,300	452,900	200	0.04%	6,600	1.46%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	87,200	87,000	85,700	200	0.23%	1,500	1.75%
Myrtle Beach MSA	191,900	191,100	185,600	800	0.42%	6,300	3.39%
Spartanburg MSA	171,200	171,600	167,500	-400	-0.23%	3,700	2.21%
Sumter MSA	39,900	39,700	39,200	200	0.50%	700	1.79%

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**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**  
**South Carolina & Metropolitan Not Seasonally Adjusted**  
**August-23**

Area	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	July 2023 to August 2023		August 2022 to August 2023	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,306,600</b>	<b>2,310,300</b>	<b>2,256,200</b>	<b>-3,700</b>	<b>-0.16%</b>	<b>50,400</b>	<b>2.23%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	416,800	420,300	398,800	-3,500	-0.83%	18,000	4.51%
Columbia MSA	419,000	418,000	412,600	1,000	0.24%	6,400	1.55%
Florence MSA	96,300	96,200	94,000	100	0.10%	2,300	2.45%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	458,200	456,200	450,200	2,000	0.44%	8,000	1.78%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	89,000	89,200	87,300	-200	-0.22%	1,700	1.95%
Myrtle Beach MSA	196,300	197,300	190,400	-1,000	-0.51%	5,900	3.10%
Spartanburg MSA	170,800	170,100	166,500	700	0.41%	4,300	2.58%
Sumter MSA	39,700	39,700	38,800	0	0.00%	900	2.32%

**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	August 2023					July 2023					August 2022				
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)
			LEVEL	LEVEL				LEVEL	LEVEL						
Marlboro County	↓	7,427	6,970	457	6.2	7,466	6,825	641	8.6	8,152	7,603	549	6.7		
Bamberg County	↓	4,594	4,376	218	4.7	4,611	4,280	331	7.2	4,535	4,269	266	5.9		
Allendale County	↓	2,293	2,190	103	4.5	2,333	2,189	144	6.2	2,246	2,118	128	5.7		
Williamsburg County	↓	10,570	10,138	432	4.1	10,796	10,167	629	5.8	10,864	10,276	588	5.4		
Orangeburg County	↓	33,434	32,134	1,300	3.9	33,305	31,383	1,922	5.8	32,697	30,982	1,715	5.2		
Marion County	↓	12,831	12,359	472	3.7	13,004	12,293	711	5.5	12,759	12,110	649	5.1		
Barnwell County	↓	7,711	7,432	279	3.6	7,843	7,468	375	4.8	7,518	7,146	372	4.9		
Cherokee County	↓	23,171	22,332	839	3.6	22,996	21,666	1,330	5.8	23,894	22,828	1,066	4.5		
Dillon County	↓	13,390	12,924	466	3.5	13,121	12,413	708	5.4	12,896	12,277	619	4.8		
Fairfield County	↓	9,395	9,067	328	3.5	9,547	9,080	467	4.9	9,209	8,722	487	5.3		
Union County	↓	11,483	11,087	396	3.4	11,642	11,087	555	4.8	11,166	10,569	597	5.3		
Chester County	↓	13,961	13,501	460	3.3	14,164	13,485	679	4.8	13,351	12,728	623	4.7		
Clarendon County	↓	12,194	11,798	396	3.2	11,944	11,372	572	4.8	11,945	11,400	545	4.6		
Lee County	↓	6,568	6,359	209	3.2	6,655	6,371	284	4.3	6,396	6,070	326	5.1		
Abbeville County	↓	9,519	9,238	281	3.0	9,411	8,988	423	4.5	9,431	9,003	428	4.5		
Sumter County	↓	42,816	41,559	1,257	2.9	43,590	41,778	1,812	4.2	41,532	39,793	1,739	4.2		
Chesterfield County	↓	21,541	20,930	611	2.8	21,919	21,032	887	4.0	21,217	20,376	841	4.0		
Lancaster County	↓	45,624	44,350	1,274	2.8	46,087	44,327	1,760	3.8	43,529	41,820	1,709	3.9		
Calhoun County	↓	6,555	6,376	179	2.7	6,656	6,393	263	4.0	6,382	6,135	247	3.9		
McCormick County	↓	3,386	3,294	92	2.7	3,394	3,272	122	3.6	3,537	3,381	156	4.4		
Colleton County	↓	16,362	15,942	420	2.6	16,749	16,105	644	3.8	15,715	15,114	601	3.8		
Darlington County	↓	30,876	30,059	817	2.6	31,385	30,130	1,255	4.0	29,851	28,709	1,142	3.8		
Georgetown County	↓	27,646	26,933	713	2.6	28,201	27,190	1,011	3.6	26,598	25,530	1,068	4.0		
Greenwood County	↓	29,906	29,124	782	2.6	29,471	28,296	1,175	4.0	29,587	28,389	1,198	4.0		
Horry County	↓	160,871	156,720	4,151	2.6	164,328	158,395	5,933	3.6	154,849	148,711	6,138	4.0		
Laurens County	↓	30,954	30,146	808	2.6	31,354	30,186	1,168	3.7	30,032	28,948	1,084	3.6		
Aiken County	↓	73,886	72,062	1,824	2.5	75,353	72,681	2,672	3.5	72,951	70,468	2,483	3.4		
Edgefield County	↓	10,332	10,087	245	2.4	10,562	10,191	371	3.5	10,221	9,864	357	3.5		
Florence County	↓	68,401	66,759	1,642	2.4	69,428	66,960	2,468	3.6	66,139	63,743	2,396	3.6		
Kershaw County	↓	30,021	29,301	720	2.4	30,417	29,345	1,072	3.5	29,266	28,187	1,079	3.7		
Richland County	↓	201,762	196,856	4,906	2.4	204,216	196,911	7,305	3.6	196,423	189,292	7,131	3.6		
Spartanburg County	↓	159,084	155,236	3,848	2.4	160,917	155,177	5,740	3.6	153,286	147,979	5,307	3.5		
Anderson County	↓	94,199	92,055	2,144	2.3	95,322	92,106	3,216	3.4	91,507	88,380	3,127	3.4		
Beaufort County	↓	80,191	78,319	1,872	2.3	81,732	78,931	2,801	3.4	77,703	75,025	2,678	3.4		
Newberry County	↓	19,403	18,957	446	2.3	19,599	18,933	666	3.4	18,989	18,444	545	2.9		
Oconee County	↓	36,121	35,287	834	2.3	35,846	34,613	1,233	3.4	34,289	33,084	1,205	3.5		
Saluda County	↓	8,624	8,426	198	2.3	8,753	8,464	289	3.3	8,379	8,119	260	3.1		
York County	↓	154,989	151,428	3,561	2.3	156,537	151,339	5,198	3.3	147,868	142,758	5,110	3.5		
Berkeley County	↓	116,725	114,166	2,559	2.2	119,166	115,442	3,724	3.1	110,452	106,879	3,573	3.2		
Hampton County	↓	8,083	7,904	179	2.2	8,077	7,781	296	3.7	7,959	7,715	244	3.1		
Jasper County	↓	13,724	13,420	304	2.2	14,043	13,583	460	3.3	13,316	12,862	454	3.4		
Pickens County	↓	59,577	58,245	1,332	2.2	60,407	58,304	2,103	3.5	57,797	55,920	1,877	3.2		
Dorchester County	↓	84,635	82,877	1,758	2.1	86,405	83,820	2,585	3.0	80,065	77,600	2,465	3.1		
Greenville County	↓	267,937	262,203	5,734	2.1	270,726	262,312	8,414	3.1	259,627	251,724	7,903	3.0		
Charleston County	↓	228,826	224,145	4,681	2.0	233,584	226,950	6,634	2.8	216,516	209,989	6,527	3.0		
Lexington County	↓	154,831	151,740	3,091	2.0	156,571	151,953	4,618	2.9	150,332	145,946	4,386	2.9		
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	430,186	421,188	8,998	2.1	439,155	426,212	12,943	2.9	407,033	394,468	12,565	3.1		
Columbia MSA	↓	411,188	401,766	9,422	2.3	416,160	402,146	14,014	3.4	399,991	386,401	13,590	3.4		
Florence MSA	↓	99,277	96,818	2,459	2.5	100,813	97,090	3,723	3.7	95,990	92,452	3,538	3.7		
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	452,667	442,649	10,018	2.2	457,809	442,908	14,901	3.3	438,963	424,972	13,991	3.2		
Hilton Head Island- Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	↓	93,915	91,739	2,176	2.3	95,775	92,514	3,261	3.4	91,019	87,887	3,132	3.4		
Myrtle Beach-Conway- North Myrtle Beach, SC- NC MSA	↓	221,102	214,461	6,641	3.0	225,619	217,250	8,369	3.7	213,835	204,741	9,094	4.3		
Spartanburg MSA	↓	170,567	166,323	4,244	2.5	172,559	166,264	6,295	3.6	164,452	158,548	5,904	3.6		
Sumter MSA	↓	42,816	41,559	1,257	2.9	43,590	41,778	1,812	4.2	41,532	39,793	1,739	4.2		
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED															
South Carolina	↓	2,455,394	2,382,362	73,032	3.0	2,448,053	2,370,982	77,071	3.1	2,374,500	2,296,410	78,090	3.3		

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

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