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For Release
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South Carolina's Employment Situation
December 2021

I. Household Survey[1]

Employment: The seasonally adjusted, monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working increased to 2,320,717.

- That is an increase of 3,008 people over the November 2021 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 97,237 people over the December 2020 estimate.

Unemployment: Unemployment estimates decreased to 85,090 people.

- That is a decrease of 4,377 people from the November 2021 estimate and a significant decrease of 46,492 over the December 2020 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 3.5 percent in December from 3.7 percent in November.

Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 3.9 percent in December from 4.2 percent in November.

Labor force: The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) was little changed over the month, decreasing to 2,405,807.

- That is a decrease of 1,369 people over the November 2021 estimate.
- That is an increase of 50,745 individuals over the December 2020 estimate.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted[3])

The Current Employment Survey[2] of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 2,600 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,162,200.

- Industries that reported gains were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,700); Manufacturing (+1,500); Education and Health Services (+1,100); Other Services (+500); and Leisure and Hospitality (+400).
- Decreases were observed in the Professional and Business Services (-2,100); Construction (-700); Financial Activities (-500); Information (-200); and Government (-100) industries.

From December 2020 to December 2021, South Carolina's economy has picked up 44,900 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs.

- Industries with strong growth were reported in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+15,900); Leisure and Hospitality (+9,000); Manufacturing (+5,600); Other Services (+5,400); Education and Health Services (+5,300); Government (+3,500); Construction (+2,300); and Information (+200).
- There were declines noticed in the Financial Activities (-2,100) and Professional and Business Services (-200) industries.

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

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment climbed by 2,400 from November 2021 to December 2021 for a total of 2,180,600.

- Increases were reported in the Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+8,500); Manufacturing (+2,700); Education and Health Services (+800); and Information (+100) industries.
- Decreases were reported in the Professional and Business Services (-5,400); Leisure and Hospitality (-1,800); Government (-1,100); Construction (-900); Financial Activities (-400); and Other Services (-100) industries.
- Mining and Logging remained flat.

Since December 2020, not seasonally, adjusted nonfarm jobs were up 51,000 in South Carolina.

- Industries making strong annual gains were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+17,900); Leisure and Hospitality (+12,600); Manufacturing (+6,800); Education and Health Services (+5,800); Other Services (+5,600); Government (+3,400); Construction (+1,500); and Information (+300).
- Declines were noticed in the Financial Activities (-1,500) and the Professional and Business Services (-1,400) industries.
- Mining and Logging remained flat.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
December 2021

Area	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	November 2021 to December 2021 # Change	November 2021 to December 2021 % Change	December 2020 to December 2021 # Change	December 2020 to December 2021 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	*2,162,200*	*2,159,600*	*2,117,300*	*2,600*	*0.12%*	*44,900*	*2.12%*
Construction	107,800	108,500	105,500	-700	-0.65%	2,300	2.18%
Manufacturing	253,200	251,700	247,600	1,500	0.60%	5,600	2.26%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	424,200	421,500	408,300	2,700	0.64%	15,900	3.89%
Information	25,100	25,300	24,900	-200	-0.79%	200	0.80%
Financial Activities	104,200	104,700	106,300	-500	-0.48%	-2,100	-1.98%
Professional and Business Services	287,200	289,300	287,400	-2,100	-0.73%	-200	-0.07%
Education and Health Services	256,900	255,800	251,600	1,100	0.43%	5,300	2.11%
Leisure and Hospitality	250,500	250,100	241,500	400	0.16%	9,000	3.73%
Other Services	79,300	78,800	73,900	500	0.63%	5,400	7.31%
Government	369,400	369,500	365,900	-100	-0.03%	3,500	0.96%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
December 2021

Area	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	November 2021 to December 2021 # Change	November 2021 to December 2021 % Change	December 2020 to December 2021 # Change	December 2020 to December 2021 % Change
Total Nonfarm	*2,180,600*	*2,178,200*	*2,129,600*	*2,400*	*0.11%*	*51,000*	*2.39%*
Mining and Logging	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Construction	107,700	108,600	106,200	-900	-0.83%	1,500	1.41%
Manufacturing	255,000	252,300	248,200	2,700	1.07%	6,800	2.74%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	436,900	428,400	419,000	8,500	1.98%	17,900	4.27%
Information	25,400	25,300	25,100	100	0.40%	300	1.20%
Financial Activities	104,800	105,200	106,300	-400	-0.38%	-1,500	-1.41%
Professional and Business Services	290,000	295,400	291,400	-5,400	-1.83%	-1,400	-0.48%
Education and Health Services	258,700	257,900	252,900	800	0.31%	5,800	2.29%
Leisure and Hospitality	244,100	245,900	231,500	-1,800	-0.73%	12,600	5.44%
Other Services	79,100	79,200	73,500	-100	-0.13%	5,600	7.62%
Government	374,500	375,600	371,100	-1,100	-0.29%	3,400	0.92%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
December 2021

Area	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	November 2021 to December 2021 # Change	% Change	December 2020 to December 2021 # Change	% Change
Statewide	*2,162,200*	*2,159,600*	*2,117,300*	*2,600*	*0.12%*	*44,900*	*2.12%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	371,900	371,500	360,600	400	0.11%	11,300	3.13%
Columbia MSA	398,200	395,800	389,500	2,400	0.61%	8,700	2.23%
Florence MSA	90,200	90,100	89,600	100	0.11%	600	0.67%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	425,000	424,600	414,100	400	0.09%	10,900	2.63%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	85,000	84,200	83,000	800	0.95%	2,000	2.41%
Myrtle Beach MSA	174,600	173,700	168,100	900	0.52%	6,500	3.87%
Spartanburg MSA	167,600	166,600	162,100	1,000	0.60%	5,500	3.39%
Sumter MSA	38,100	38,100	38,800	0	0.00%	-700	-1.80%

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
December 2021

Area	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	November 2021 to December 2021 # Change	% Change	December 2020 to December 2021 # Change	% Change
Statewide	*2,180,600*	*2,178,200*	*2,129,600*	*2,400*	*0.11%*	*51,000*	*2.39%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	373,400	373,000	361,900	400	0.11%	11,500	3.18%
Columbia MSA	401,100	400,200	392,100	900	0.22%	9,000	2.30%
Florence MSA	90,800	90,800	90,200	0	0.00%	600	0.67%
Greenville MSA	430,500	429,500	418,000	1,000	0.23%	12,500	2.99%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	84,200	84,000	81,700	200	0.24%	2,500	3.06%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	169,400	170,400	161,600	-1,000	-0.59%	7,800	4.83%
Spartanburg MSA	169,700	167,900	163,800	1,800	1.07%	5,900	3.60%
Sumter MSA	38,400	38,400	39,100	0	0.00%	-700	-1.79%

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		December 2021				November 2021				December 2020			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY-MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marlboro County	↑	8,842	8,175	667	7.5	8,788	8,194	594	6.8	9,085	8,198	887	9.8
Allendale County	↑	2,402	2,242	160	6.7	2,380	2,237	143	6.0	2,587	2,302	285	11.0
Bamberg County	↑	4,675	4,379	296	6.3	4,636	4,368	268	5.8	4,686	4,189	497	10.6
Orangeburg County	↑	33,745	31,634	2,111	6.3	33,465	31,572	1,893	5.7	34,394	31,055	3,339	9.7
Marion County	↑	12,886	12,131	755	5.9	12,833	12,173	660	5.1	13,193	11,980	1,213	9.2
Barnwell County	↑	7,459	7,024	435	5.8	7,419	7,028	391	5.3	7,879	7,178	701	8.9
Dillon County	↑	13,154	12,467	687	5.2	13,026	12,412	614	4.7	13,037	12,111	926	7.1
Union County	↑	12,149	11,519	630	5.2	12,007	11,446	561	4.7	11,922	10,898	1,024	8.6
Williamsburg County	↑	11,067	10,487	580	5.2	10,989	10,477	512	4.7	11,557	10,579	978	8.5
Chester County	↑	13,627	12,944	683	5.0	13,497	12,873	624	4.6	13,474	12,309	1,165	8.6
Fairfield County	↑	9,561	9,081	480	5.0	9,504	9,081	423	4.5	9,450	8,714	736	7.8
Lee County	↑	6,546	6,237	309	4.7	6,527	6,246	281	4.3	6,673	6,165	508	7.6
Horry County	↑	146,326	139,835	6,491	4.4	146,672	141,016	5,656	3.9	141,825	130,909	10,916	7.7
Clarendon County	↑	12,208	11,701	507	4.2	12,203	11,742	461	3.8	12,415	11,521	894	7.2
Georgetown County	↑	25,554	24,497	1,057	4.1	25,594	24,673	921	3.6	25,232	23,351	1,881	7.5
Cherokee County	↑	25,429	24,411	1,018	4.0	25,385	24,455	930	3.7	24,953	23,065	1,888	7.6
Chesterfield County	↑	21,648	20,775	873	4.0	21,562	20,784	778	3.6	21,404	20,029	1,375	6.4
Lancaster County	↑	43,004	41,352	1,652	3.8	42,643	41,156	1,487	3.5	41,902	39,271	2,631	6.3
McCormick County	↑	3,309	3,183	126	3.8	3,287	3,173	114	3.5	3,299	3,063	236	7.2
Sumter County	↑	42,750	41,117	1,633	3.8	42,843	41,350	1,493	3.5	43,850	40,903	2,947	6.7
Calhoun County	↑	6,541	6,299	242	3.7	6,525	6,304	221	3.4	6,473	6,052	421	6.5
Darlington County	↑	30,041	28,929	1,112	3.7	29,973	28,967	1,006	3.4	30,204	28,206	1,998	6.6
Abbeville County	↑	9,844	9,486	358	3.6	9,818	9,473	345	3.5	9,916	9,307	609	6.1
Colleton County	↑	16,168	15,590	578	3.6	16,179	15,662	517	3.2	16,421	15,300	1,121	6.8
Greenwood County	↑	30,684	29,569	1,115	3.6	30,519	29,498	1,021	3.3	31,121	29,096	2,025	6.5
Laurens County	↑	30,364	29,279	1,085	3.6	30,266	29,311	955	3.2	29,708	27,841	1,867	6.3
Florence County	↑	66,965	64,731	2,234	3.3	66,909	64,864	2,045	3.1	66,810	62,862	3,948	5.9
Richland County	↑	200,213	193,594	6,619	3.3	199,454	193,438	6,016	3.0	197,370	185,155	12,215	6.2
York County	↑	146,304	141,471	4,833	3.3	145,168	140,805	4,363	3.0	141,859	134,156	7,703	5.4
Kershaw County	↑	29,509	28,583	926	3.1	29,424	28,582	842	2.9	28,978	27,418	1,560	5.4
Spartanburg County	↑	161,286	156,247	5,039	3.1	159,773	155,167	4,606	2.9	156,725	147,824	8,901	5.7
Anderson County	↑	91,883	89,166	2,717	3.0	91,655	89,208	2,447	2.7	89,633	84,703	4,930	5.5
Berkeley County	↑	106,862	103,666	3,196	3.0	106,684	103,790	2,894	2.7	103,971	98,353	5,618	5.4
Hampton County	↑	8,057	7,814	243	3.0	8,023	7,800	223	2.8	8,010	7,574	436	5.4
Oconee County	↑	34,113	33,099	1,014	3.0	34,225	33,309	916	2.7	34,048	32,347	1,701	5.0
Aiken County	↑	74,827	72,663	2,164	2.9	74,311	72,380	1,931	2.6	74,556	70,980	3,576	4.8
Beaufort County	↑	78,458	76,196	2,262	2.9	78,407	76,361	2,046	2.6	76,292	72,533	3,759	4.9
Charleston County	↑	214,076	207,922	6,154	2.9	214,057	208,460	5,597	2.6	208,943	197,186	11,757	5.6
Dorchester County	↑	78,859	76,559	2,300	2.9	78,782	76,668	2,114	2.7	76,864	72,650	4,214	5.5
Pickens County	↑	58,149	56,484	1,665	2.9	58,095	56,536	1,559	2.7	56,374	53,616	2,758	4.9
Edgefield County	↑	10,598	10,301	297	2.8	10,551	10,277	274	2.6	10,600	10,097	503	4.7
Greenville County	↑	259,217	251,977	7,240	2.8	258,755	252,074	6,681	2.6	252,223	239,274	12,949	5.1
Jasper County	↑	13,066	12,701	365	2.8	13,105	12,778	327	2.5	12,722	12,074	648	5.1
Newberry County	↑	19,317	18,795	522	2.7	19,292	18,800	492	2.6	18,782	17,844	938	5.0
Lexington County	↑	151,634	147,711	3,923	2.6	151,278	147,723	3,555	2.3	148,153	141,470	6,683	4.5
Saluda County	↑	8,517	8,294	223	2.6	8,513	8,310	203	2.4	8,464	8,074	390	4.6
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	399,797	388,147	11,650	2.9	399,523	388,918	10,605	2.7	389,778	368,189	21,589	5.5
Columbia MSA	↑	405,975	393,562	12,413	3.1	404,698	393,438	11,260	2.8	398,888	376,883	22,005	5.5
Florence MSA	↑	97,006	93,660	3,346	3.4	96,882	93,831	3,051	3.1	97,014	91,068	5,946	6.1
Greenville -Anderson-Mauldin MSA	↑	439,613	426,906	12,707	2.9	438,771	427,129	11,642	2.7	427,938	405,434	22,504	5.3
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,405,807	2,320,717	85,090	3.5	2,407,176	2,317,709	89,467	3.7	2,355,062	2,223,480	131,582	5.6

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

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