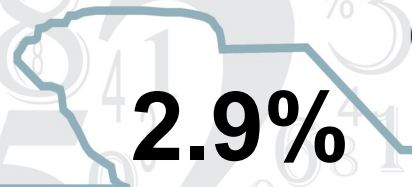


INSIGHTS



Latest
Unemployment Rate

Volume 9: Issue 8 September 2019

S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

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View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Economic Indicators

September 2019 - Seasonally Adjusted

	U.S.	S.C.
Labor Force	164,039,000	2,380,658
Employed	158,269,000	2,311,479
Unemployed	5,769,000	69,179
Unemployed Rate	3.5%	2.9%

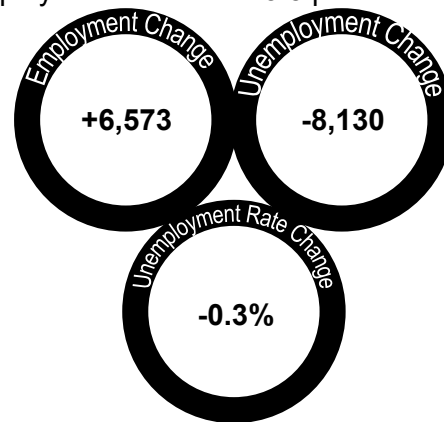
Employment expansion continues; unemployment rate falls to 2.9 percent, lowest ever

The number of individuals working rose by 6,573 in September, establishing a new record of 2,311,479 people employed.

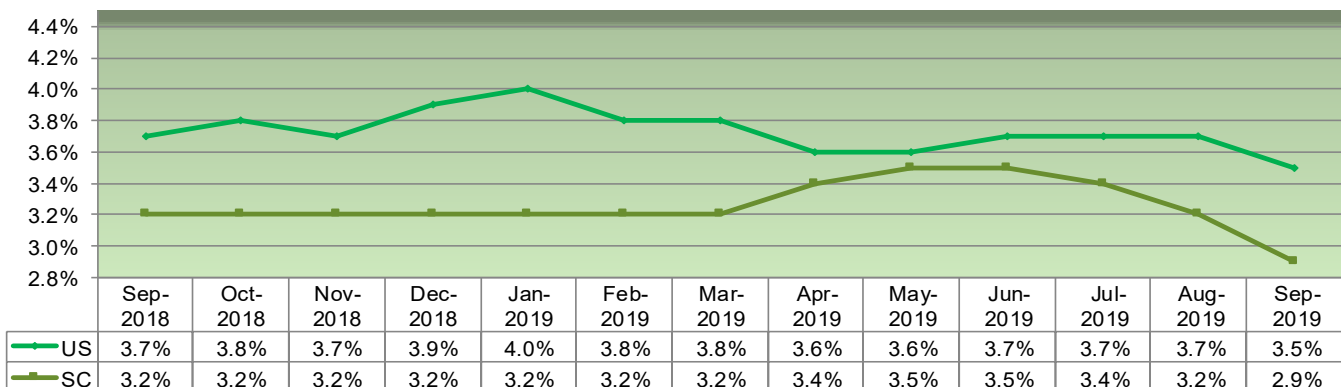
Unemployment fell over the month by 8,130, the largest ever monthly decline, to 69,179 people. Additionally, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 2.9 percent for the month, the lowest ever recorded rate. The state's labor force dipped by 1,557 to 2,380,658 as more people dropped out of the labor force.

Since September of 2018, employment increased by 60,432 people. Likewise, the labor force rose by 54,532. The level of unemployed declined by 5,900 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent in September.



South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
September 2018 - September 2019



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2018 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerserv-ice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

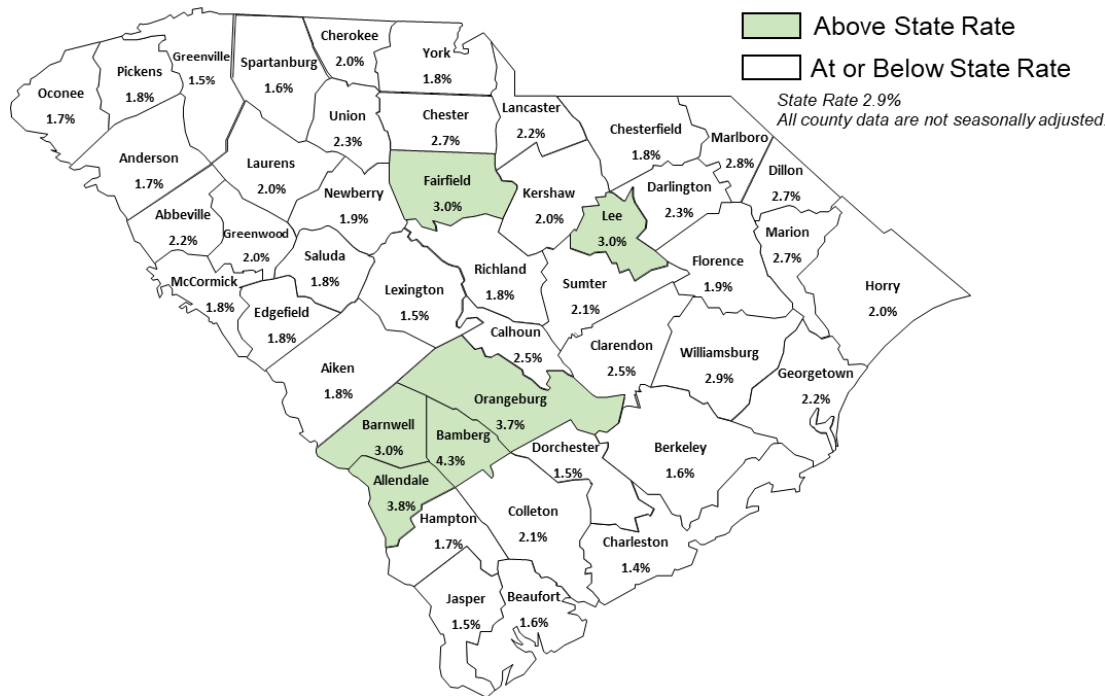
U.S. unemployment rate falls in September; S.C. rate reaches lowest ever at 2.9 percent, ranked 9th lowest

Unemployment rates were lower in September in seven states, higher in four states, and stable in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Seven states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, two states had increases, and 41 states and the District had little or no change. The national unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent, while South Carolina's unemployment rate dropped to 2.9 percent, ranking 9th lowest of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in three states in September 2019, decreased in two states and was essentially unchanged in 45 states and the District of Columbia. Twenty-seven states had over-the-year increases in nonfarm payroll employment in September. The largest job gains occurred in California (+320,000), Texas (+300,000) and Florida (+224,700). The largest percentage gains occurred in Nevada (+3.2 percent), Idaho (+3.1 percent) and Utah (+3.0 percent).

September unemployment rates by county

All county unemployment rates declined across the state as the not seasonally adjusted statewide employment rate fell over the month. Rates ranged from a low of 1.4 percent in Charleston County to a high of 4.3 percent in Bamberg County.



September 2019

September 2019

Vermont	2.2
Iowa	2.5
New Hampshire	2.5
North Dakota	2.5
Colorado	2.7
Hawaii	2.7
Utah	2.7
Virginia	2.7
Idaho	2.9
Maine	2.9
Massachusetts	2.9
South Carolina	2.9
Alabama	3.0
South Dakota	3.0
Missouri	3.1
Nebraska	3.1
New Jersey	3.1
Florida	3.2
Indiana	3.2
Kansas	3.2
Minnesota	3.2
Oklahoma	3.2
Wisconsin	3.2
Montana	3.3
Tennessee	3.4
Texas	3.4
Arkansas	3.5
Delaware	3.5
Georgia	3.5
United States	3.5
Connecticut	3.6
Rhode Island	3.6
Maryland	3.7
Wyoming	3.8
Illinois	3.9
New York	3.9
California	4.0
Pennsylvania	4.0
Nevada	4.1
North Carolina	4.1
Oregon	4.1
Michigan	4.2
Ohio	4.2
Louisiana	4.3
Kentucky	4.4
Washington	4.6
West Virginia	4.7
Arizona	4.9
New Mexico	4.9
District of Columbia	5.4
Mississippi	5.4
Alaska	6.2

Highest County Unemployment Rates	Lowest County Unemployment Rates		
Bamberg County	4.3%	Charleston County	1.4%
Allendale County	3.8%	Dorchester County	1.5%
Orangeburg County	3.7%	Greenville County	1.5%
Barnwell County	3.0%	Jasper County	1.5%
Fairfield County	3.0%	Lexington County	1.5%

Economic Indicators		
Average Hours & Earnings		
Manufacturing	United States (SA)	S.C. (Unadj.)
Avg Weekly Earnings	\$1,128.33	\$871.94
Avg Weekly Hours	40.5	41.9
Avg Hourly Wages	\$27.86	\$20.81

South Carolina nonfarm employment trends for September—seasonally adjusted

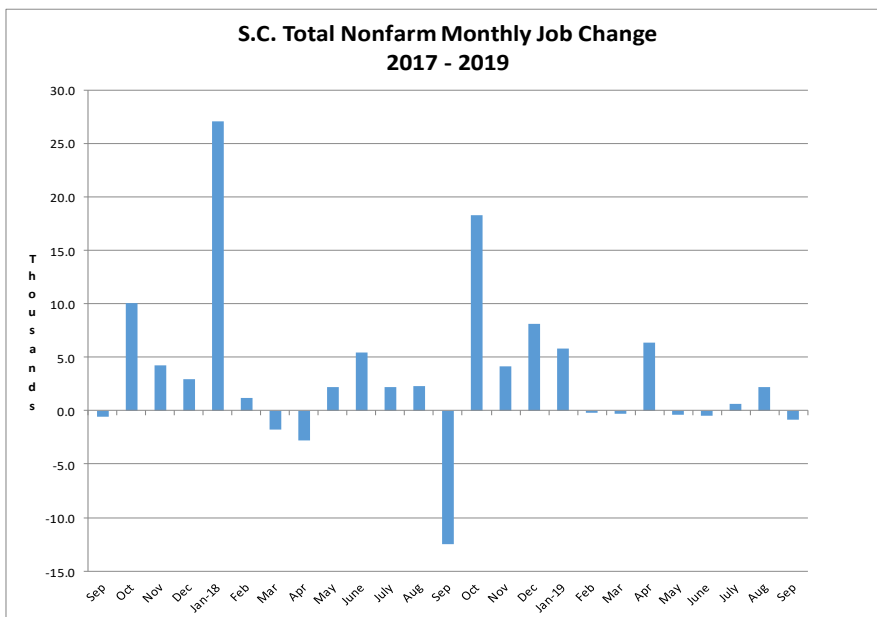
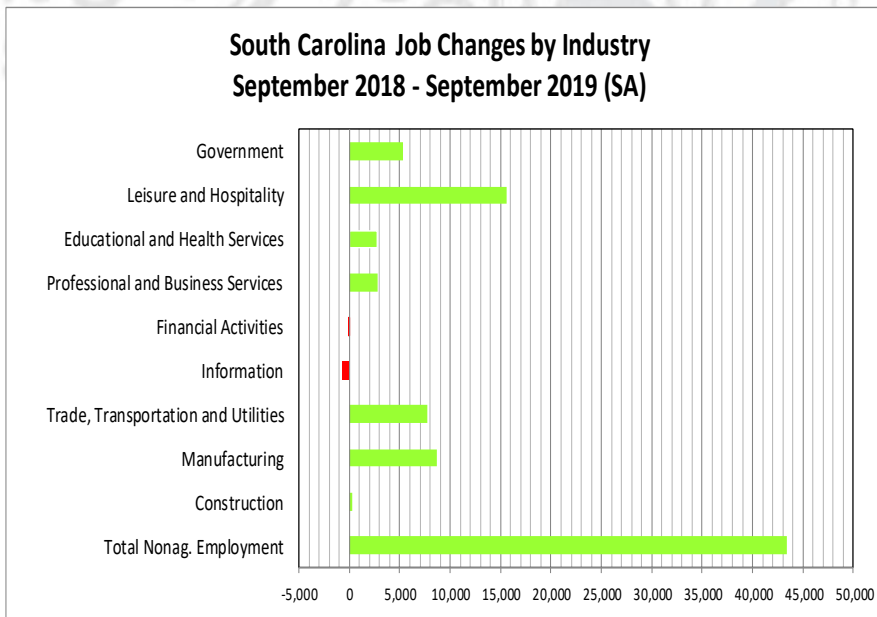
In September 2019 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls decreased by -800 over the month to a level of 2,179,300.

Industries reporting increases in employment were Professional and Business Services (+1,400); Manufacturing (+800); and Financial Activities and Government both had increases of (+100). Decreases were noticed in the Leisure and Hospitality (-1,700); Education and Health Services (-800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-400); Construction (-200); and Other Services (-100) industries. Information showed no movement.

From September 2018 to September 2019, South Carolina’s economy has added 43,400 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

Industries with strong yearly growth were Leisure and Hospitality (+15,600); Manufacturing (+8,700); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+7,700); Government (+5,300); Education and Health Services (+2,800); Professional and Business Services (+2,800); Other Services (+700); and Construction (+300). Decreases were seen in Information (-700) and Financial Activities (-100).

For the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll job increases were seen in Myrtle Beach (+1,500) and Hilton Head (+200).



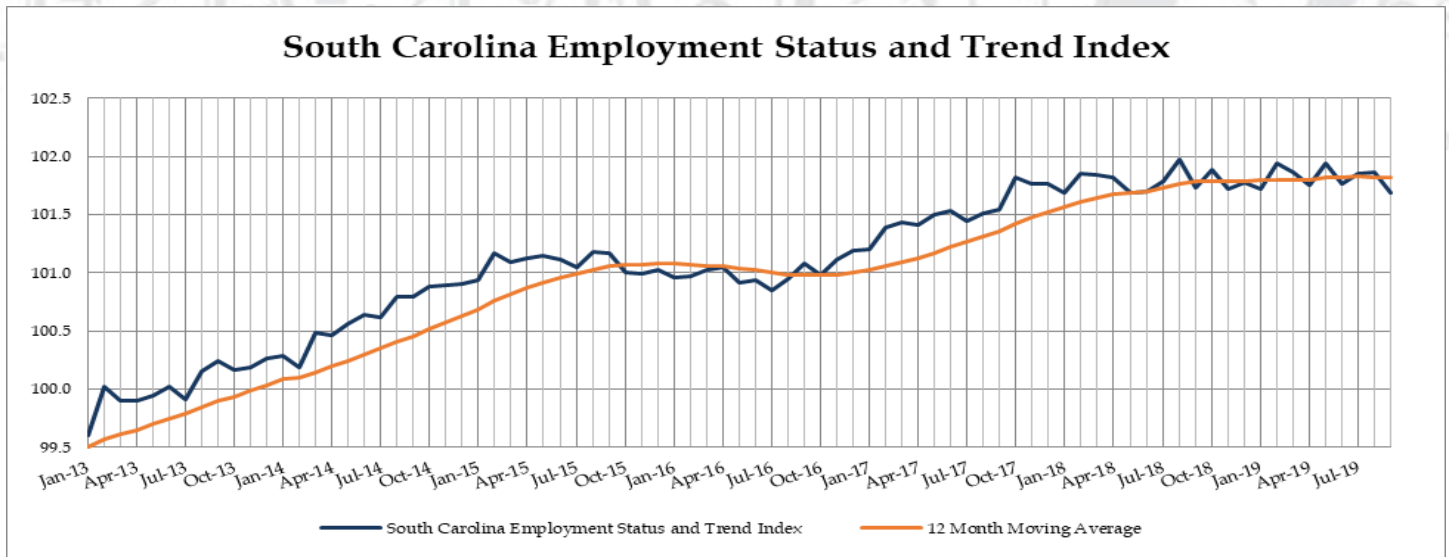
Economic Indicators (September 2019)		
Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)		
	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Greenville MSA	-0.12%	1.94%
Columbia MSA	-0.15%	0.15%
Sumter MSA	-0.25%	0.74%
Charleston MSA	-0.40%	1.73%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

Employment Changes by County July 2019 through September 2019

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Sep 2019	Aug 2019	Jul 2019	Aug '19 - Sep '19	Jul '19 - Aug '19
Abbeville	9,926	9,786	9,812	140	-26
Aiken	73,261	73,632	73,509	-371	123
Allendale	2,608	2,649	2,643	-41	6
Anderson	89,448	89,082	89,602	366	-520
Bamberg	4,687	4,714	4,706	-27	8
Barnwell	8,134	8,111	8,103	23	8
Beaufort	76,597	78,612	79,673	-2,015	-1,061
Berkeley	101,444	101,568	102,716	-124	-1,148
Calhoun	6,489	6,563	6,566	-74	-3
Charleston	207,091	207,540	210,189	-449	-2,649
Cherokee	25,216	24,847	24,857	369	-10
Chester	13,238	13,250	13,193	-12	57
Chesterfield	21,738	21,721	21,740	17	-19
Clarendon	12,188	12,252	12,287	-64	-35
Colleton	16,499	16,451	16,553	48	-102
Darlington	29,633	29,794	29,938	-161	-144
Dillon	12,307	12,399	12,393	-92	6
Dorchester	75,278	75,418	76,282	-140	-864
Edgefield	10,357	10,514	10,507	-157	7
Fairfield	9,364	9,435	9,434	-71	1
Florence	65,458	65,390	65,812	68	-422
Georgetown	25,361	25,445	25,594	-84	-149
Greenville	249,329	248,096	249,535	1,233	-1,439
Greenwood	30,628	30,296	30,331	332	-35
Hampton	8,103	8,288	8,311	-185	-23
Horry	148,478	151,396	154,607	-2,918	-3,211
Jasper	12,324	12,668	12,891	-344	-223
Kershaw	28,463	28,658	28,656	-195	2
Lancaster	39,777	39,752	39,621	25	131
Laurens	29,649	29,609	29,795	40	-186
Lee	6,431	6,472	6,479	-41	-7
Lexington	146,181	146,741	146,777	-560	-36
McCormick	3,382	3,349	3,358	33	-9
Marion	12,639	12,676	12,740	-37	-64
Marlboro	8,905	8,829	8,824	76	5
Newberry	18,317	18,512	18,483	-195	29
Oconee	34,839	34,620	34,691	219	-71
Orangeburg	33,137	33,024	33,040	113	-16
Pickens	56,117	55,835	56,196	282	-361
Richland	194,882	194,848	194,750	34	98
Saluda	8,556	8,880	8,874	-324	6
Spartanburg	149,980	148,522	148,889	1,458	-367
Sumter	43,353	43,242	43,680	111	-438
Union	11,612	11,503	11,537	109	-34
Williamsburg	11,933	11,908	11,914	25	-6
York	136,445	135,987	135,581	458	406

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index falls dramatically in September



“With the Index falling below its 12-month moving average in September, SCESTI indicates a negative direction for employment change over the next several months.”

S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), an aggregate of five labor-market indicators, fell dramatically to 101.69 in September from its revised August value of 101.87. The Index also dropped below its 12-month moving average, which dipped by a hundredth of a point to 101.81 for the month from 101.82.

Four of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a negative direction in September. The Conference Board’s Help Wanted Online® data, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, fell by 1,629 ads in September to 66,100 from 67,729 in August. The Bureau of Labor Statistic’s S.C. Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed production hours dipping to a preliminary 41.9 hours per week in September from its revised August level of 42.8. The Conference Board’s Consumer Confidence Index decreased by 9.1 points from August’s value of 134.2 to 125.1 in September. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance rose from an August average of 1,853 per week to a September average of 2,254 per week. The Conference Board’s Employment Trends Index rose in September to 110.97 points from an August revised value of 110.73.

SCESTI fell below its year-ago figure of 101.74 in September of 2018. With the Index falling below its 12-month moving average in September, SCESTI indicates a negative direction for employment change over the next several months.

S.C. Online Job Advertisements

S.C. Avg. Weekly Manufacturing Hours

U.S. Consumer Confidence Index

U.S. Employment Trends Index

S.C. Initial Claims/Unemployment Insurance

How the Government Measures Unemployment

....an excerpt from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics...

Who is not in the labor force?

The labor force is made up of the employed and the unemployed. People are considered employed if they did any work at all for pay or profit during the survey reference week. This includes all part-time and temporary work, as well as regular full-time, year-round employment. People are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. The remainder—those who have no job and are not looking for one—are counted as *not in the labor force*. Many who are not in the labor force are going to school or are retired. Family responsibilities keep others out of the labor force. Since the mid-1990s, typically fewer than one in 10 people not in the labor force reported that they want a job.

A series of questions is asked each month in the Current Population Survey (CPS) of persons not in the labor force to obtain information about their desire for work, the reasons why they had not looked for work in the last four weeks, their prior job search, and their availability for work. These questions include the following (the bolded words are emphasized when read by the interviewers).

1. Do you currently want a job, either full or part time?
2. What is the main reason you were not looking for work during the **last four weeks**?
3. Did you look for work at any time during the last 12 months?
4. **Last week**, could you have started a job **if** one had been offered?

These questions form the basis for estimating the number of people who are not in the labor force but who are considered to be *marginally attached to the labor force*. These are individuals without jobs who are not currently looking for work (and therefore are not counted as unemployed), but who nevertheless have demonstrated some degree of labor force attachment. Specifically, to be counted as marginally attached to the labor force, they must indicate that they currently want a job, have looked for work in the last 12 months (or since they last worked if they worked within the last 12 months) and are available for work. *Discouraged workers* are a subset of the marginally attached. Discouraged workers report they are not currently looking for work for one of the following types of reasons:

- They believe no job is available to them in their line of work or area.
- They had previously been unable to find work.
- They lack the necessary schooling, training, skills, or experience.
- Employers think they are too young or too old or
- They face some other type of discrimination.