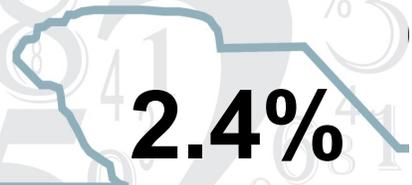


INSIGHTS



Latest
Unemployment Rate

Volume 9: Issue 10 November 2019

S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

At A Glance

- Employment growth continues; unemployment rate falls to 2.4 percent, another record low....1
- U.S. unemployment rate falls in November; S.C. rate reaches another record low at 2.4 percent, ranked 2nd lowest.....2
- November unemployment rates by county.....2
- South Carolina nonfarm employment trends for November - seasonally adjusted.....3
- Employment changes by county.....4
- S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index rises in November.....5
- Job Ads Data, Which Series is Right?.....6

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

Economic Indicators

November 2019 - Seasonally Adjusted

	U.S.	S.C.
Labor Force	164,404,000	2,382,401
Employed	158,593,000	2,324,510
Unemployed	5,811,000	57,891
Unemployed Rate	3.5%	2.4%

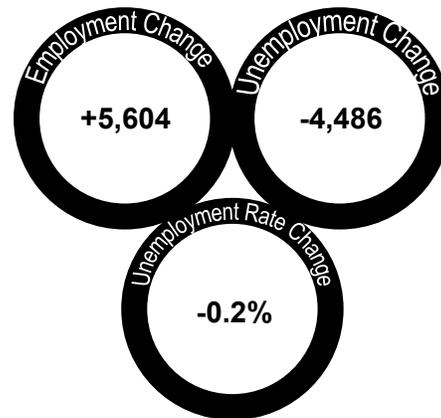
Employment growth continues; unemployment rate falls to 2.4 percent, another record low

The number of individuals working rose by 5,604 in November, establishing a new record of 2,324,510 people employed.

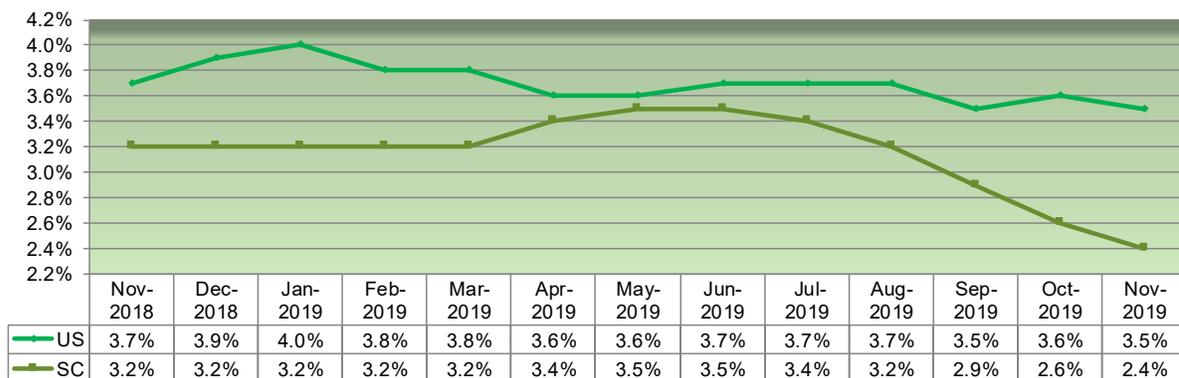
Unemployment fell over the month by 4,486 to 57,891 people. Additionally, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 2.4 percent for the month, reaching the lowest ever recorded rate for the third consecutive month. The state's labor force grew by 1,118 to 2,382,401.

Since November of 2018, employment increased by 69,390 people. Likewise, the labor force rose by 52,174. The level of unemployed declined by 17,216 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate fell from 3.6 percent to 3.5 percent in November.



South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
November 2018 - November 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 bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

U.S. unemployment rate falls in November; S.C. rate reaches another record low at 2.4 percent, ranked 2nd lowest

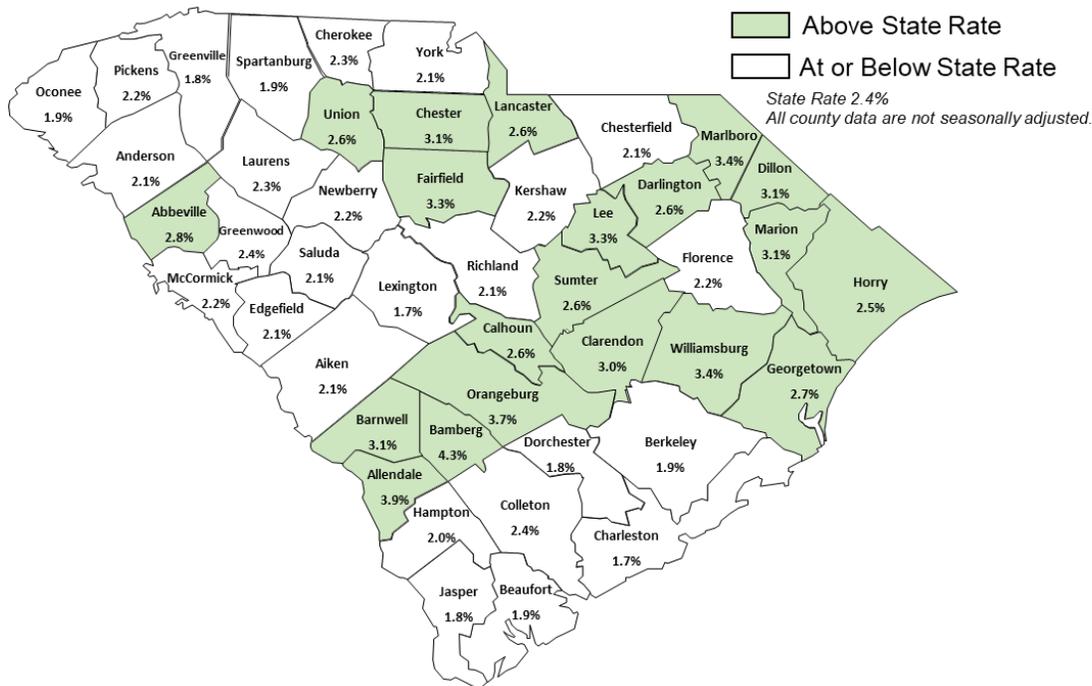
Unemployment rates were lower in November in seven states, higher in five states and stable in 38 states and the District of Columbia. Seven states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, two states had increases and 41 states and the District had little or no change. The national unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent, while South Carolina's unemployment rate dropped to 2.4 percent, ranking 2nd lowest of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in six states in November 2019, decreased in one state and was essentially unchanged in 43 states and the District of Columbia. Twenty-five states had over-the-year increases in nonfarm payroll employment in November. The largest job gains occurred in Texas (+336,700), California (+321,800) and Florida (+217,400). The largest percentage gains occurred in Utah (+3.2 percent) and Idaho and Texas (+2.7 percent each).

Vermont	2.3
South Carolina	2.4
Utah	2.4
North Dakota	2.5
Colorado	2.6
Hawaii	2.6
Iowa	2.6
New Hampshire	2.6
Virginia	2.6
Alabama	2.7
Maine	2.8
Idaho	2.9
Massachusetts	2.9
Florida	3.1
Kansas	3.1
Missouri	3.1
Nebraska	3.1
South Dakota	3.1
Indiana	3.2
Georgia	3.3
Minnesota	3.3
Tennessee	3.3
Wisconsin	3.3
Montana	3.4
New Jersey	3.4
Oklahoma	3.4
Texas	3.4
Rhode Island	3.5
United States	3.5
Arkansas	3.6
Maryland	3.6
Connecticut	3.7
Wyoming	3.7
Delaware	3.8
Illinois	3.8
North Carolina	3.8
California	3.9
Oregon	3.9
Michigan	4.0
Nevada	4.0
New York	4.0
Ohio	4.2
Pennsylvania	4.3
Kentucky	4.4
Washington	4.4
Arizona	4.7
Louisiana	4.7
New Mexico	4.8
West Virginia	4.9
District of Columbia	5.3
Mississippi	5.6
Alaska	6.1

November unemployment rates by county

County unemployment rate changes were mixed across the state as the not seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate remained the same over the month. Rates ranged from a low of 1.7 percent in Charleston and Lexington counties to a high of 4.3 percent in Bamberg County.



November 2019

November 2019

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Bamberg County	4.3%	Charleston County	1.7%
Allendale County	3.9%	Lexington County	1.7%
Orangeburg County	3.7%	Dorchester County	1.8%
Marlboro County	3.4%	Greenville County	1.8%
Williamsburg County	3.4%	Jasper County	1.8%

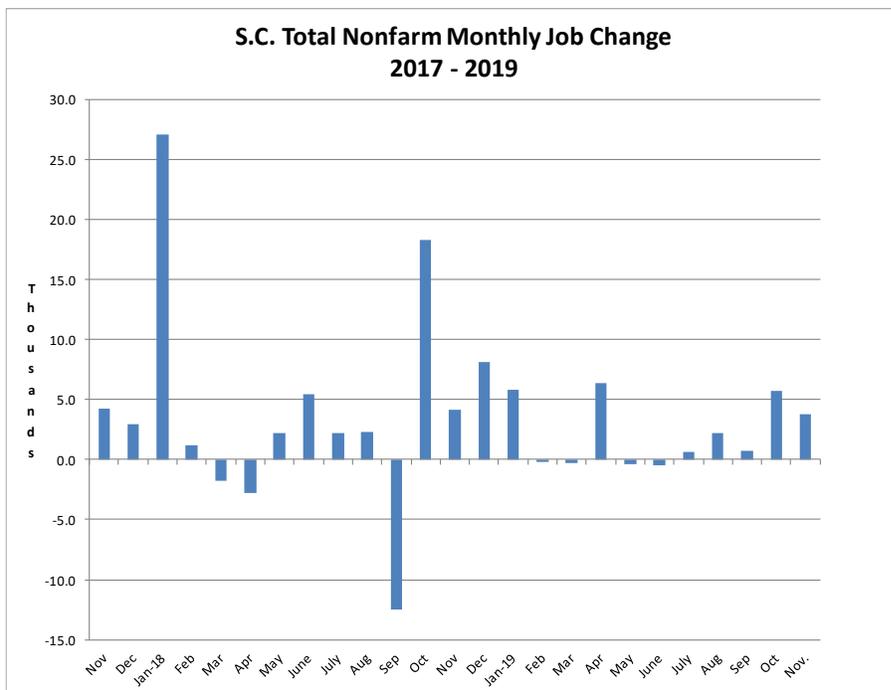
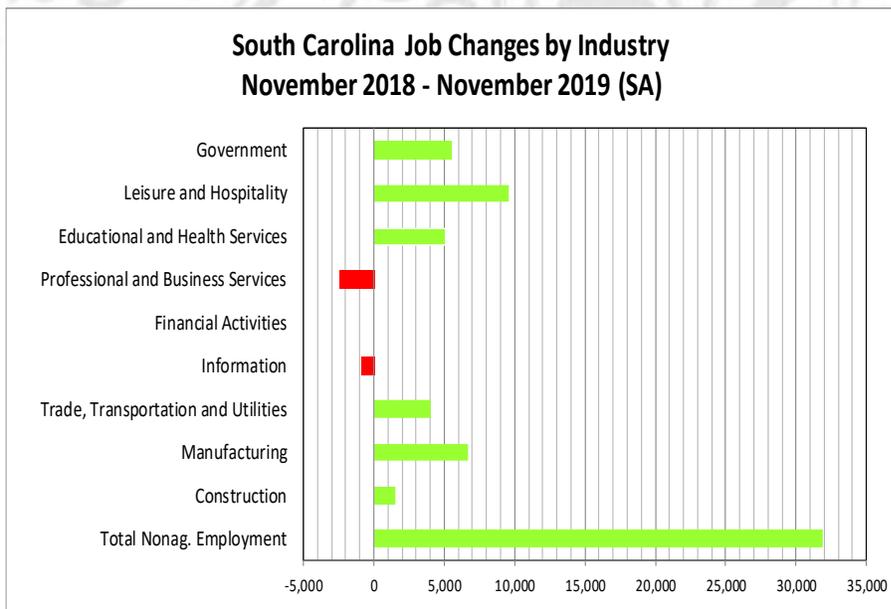
Economic Indicators		
Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	S.C. (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg Weekly Earnings	\$1,136.03	\$889.57
Avg Weekly Hours	40.5	42.3
Avg Hourly Wages	\$28.05	\$21.08

South Carolina nonfarm employment trends for November—seasonally adjusted

In November 2019 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased +3,800 over the month to a record high level of 2,190,300. Industries reporting increases in employment were Professional and Business Services (+2,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,700); Manufacturing (+700); Education and Health Services (+700); Other Services (+300) and Government (+100). Decreases were noticed in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,700) and Financial Activities (-300) industries. The Information industry remained flat.

From November 2018 to November 2019, South Carolina’s economy has added 31,900 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs. Industries with strong growth were Leisure and Hospitality (+9,600); Manufacturing (+6,700); Government (+5,500); Education and Health Services (+5,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,000); Other Services (+2,700) and Construction (+1,500). Decreases were seen in Professional and Business Services (-2,500) and Information (-900). Financial Activities remained stagnant over the year.

For the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll job increases were seen in Columbia (+2,100), Charleston (+900), Myrtle Beach (+900), Spartanburg (+100) and Florence (+100).



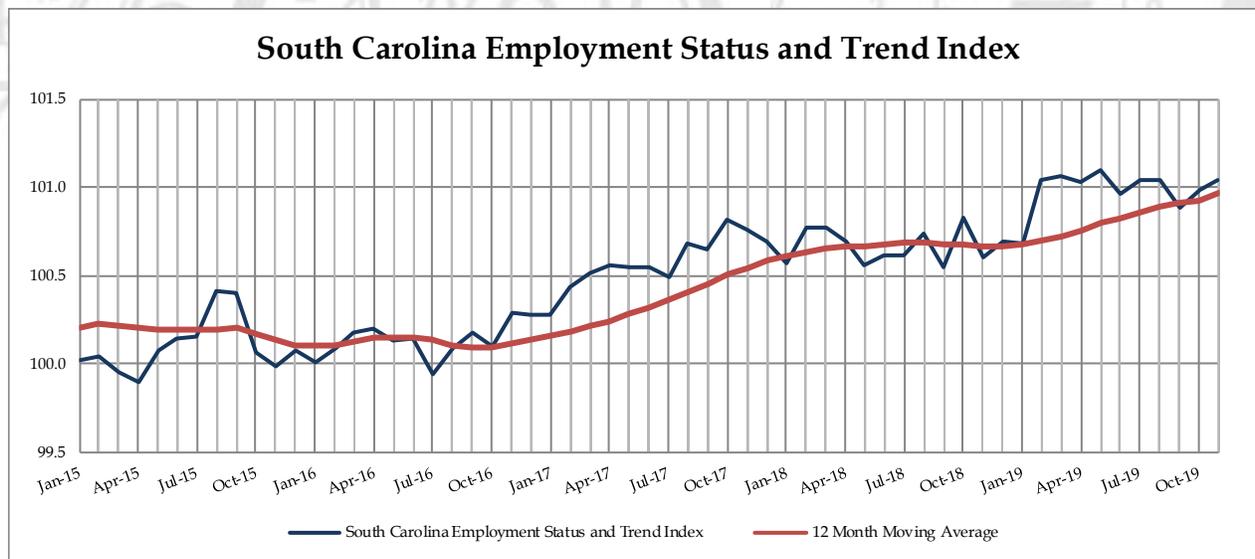
Economic Indicators (November 2019)		
Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)		
	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Columbia MSA	0.52%	0.82%
Charleston MSA	0.24%	0.62%
Florence MSA	0.11%	0.87%
Sumter MSA	0.00%	0.49%

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

Employment Changes by County September 2019 through November 2019

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Nov 2019	Oct 2019	Sep 2019	Oct '19 - Nov '19	Sep '19 - Oct '19
Abbeville	10,046	10,026	9,915	20	111
Aiken	73,622	73,875	73,232	-253	643
Allendale	2,690	2,680	2,607	10	73
Anderson	88,991	89,730	89,283	-739	447
Bamberg	4,816	4,799	4,683	17	116
Barnwell	8,277	8,266	8,127	11	139
Beaufort	76,481	77,368	76,930	-887	438
Berkeley	101,066	101,418	101,535	-352	-117
Calhoun	6,527	6,534	6,494	-7	40
Charleston	206,283	206,701	207,270	-418	-569
Cherokee	25,500	25,501	25,199	-1	302
Chester	13,256	13,355	13,252	-99	103
Chesterfield	22,063	22,026	21,729	37	297
Clarendon	12,427	12,391	12,180	36	211
Colleton	16,698	16,643	16,492	55	151
Darlington	29,675	29,726	29,628	-51	98
Dillon	12,588	12,554	12,298	34	256
Dorchester	75,014	75,256	75,345	-242	-89
Edgefield	10,451	10,467	10,353	-16	114
Fairfield	9,406	9,423	9,370	-17	53
Florence	65,314	65,394	65,445	-80	-51
Georgetown	25,640	25,675	25,362	-35	313
Greenville	247,958	250,053	248,865	-2,095	1,188
Greenwood	31,072	31,033	30,598	39	435
Hampton	8,275	8,290	8,112	-15	178
Horry	145,551	148,288	148,901	-2,737	-613
Jasper	12,300	12,383	12,374	-83	9
Kershaw	28,581	28,634	28,479	-53	155
Lancaster	39,786	40,059	39,815	-273	244
Laurens	29,529	29,750	29,595	-221	155
Lee	6,526	6,526	6,429	0	97
Lexington	146,572	146,851	146,266	-279	585
McCormick	3,423	3,417	3,380	6	37
Marion	12,751	12,779	12,640	-28	139
Marlboro	9,082	9,058	8,897	24	161
Newberry	18,723	18,683	18,308	40	375
Oconee	35,288	35,271	34,802	17	469
Orangeburg	33,754	33,646	33,115	108	531
Pickens	55,793	56,233	56,013	-440	220
Richland	195,114	195,683	195,000	-569	683
Saluda	8,713	8,704	8,560	9	144
Spartanburg	149,264	150,298	149,940	-1,034	358
Sumter	43,357	43,542	43,348	-185	194
Union	11,556	11,630	11,609	-74	21
Williamsburg	12,148	12,122	11,926	26	196
York	136,290	137,233	136,579	-943	654

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index rises in November



“With the Index remaining above its 12-month moving average in November, SCESTI indicates a positive direction for employment change over the next several months.”

S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), an aggregate of five labor-market indicators, rose to 101.04 in November from its revised October value of 100.99. The Index remained above its 12-month moving average, which climbed by three-hundredths of a point to 100.96 for the month.

Four of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a positive direction in November. The Conference Board’s Consumer Confidence Index increased by nine-tenths of a point from October’s value of 125.9 to 126.8 in November. The Conference Board’s Employment Trends Index rose in November to 110.18 points from an October revised value of 109.96. The Conference Board’s Help Wanted Online® data*, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, rose by 3,083 ads in November to 55,821 from 52,739 in October. The Bureau of Labor Statistic’s S.C. Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed production hours increasing to a preliminary 42.3 hours per week in November from its revised October level of 42.1. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance rose from an October average of 2,328 per week to a November average of 2,719 per week.

SCESTI remained above its year-ago figure of 100.61 in November of 2018. With the Index remaining above its 12-month moving average in November, SCESTI indicates a positive direction for employment change over the next several months. * *With The Conference Board changing vendors for its Help Wanted Online® data in November, the series from January 2015 has been revised.*

S.C. Online Job Advertisements

S.C. Avg. Weekly Manufacturing Hours

U.S. Consumer Confidence Index

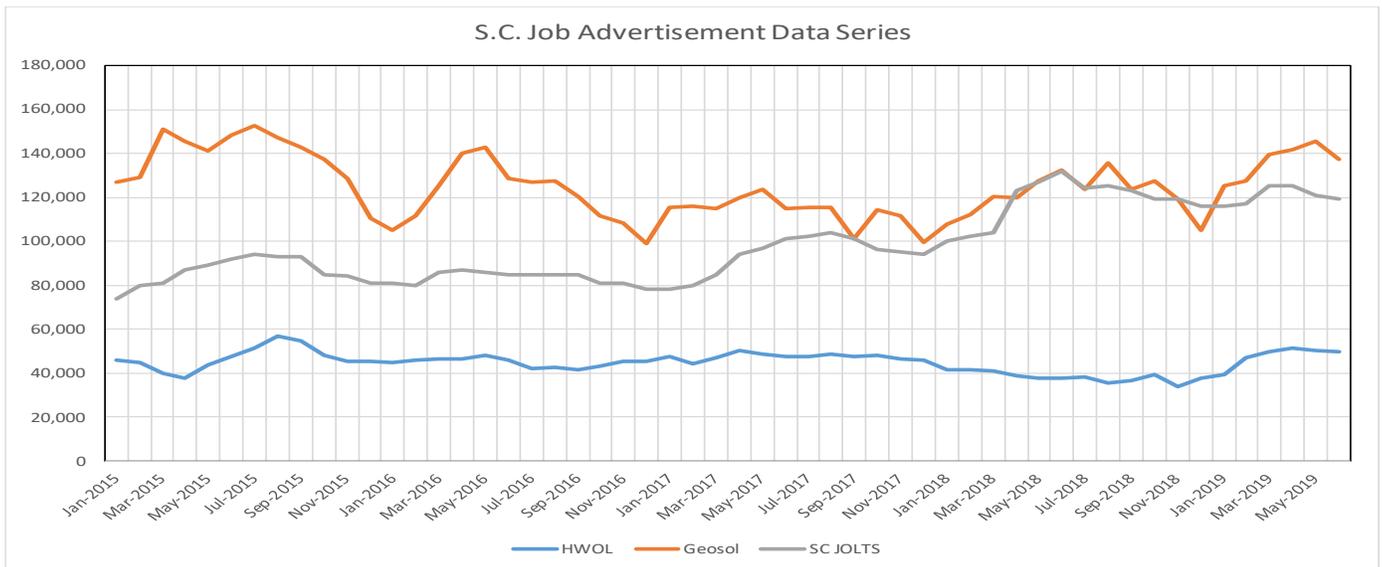
U.S. Employment Trends Index

S.C. Initial Claims/ Unemployment Insurance

Job Advertisement Data, Which Series is Right?

Job advertisement data is an important element that analysts use in understanding real-time labor markets. There are a number of vendors and other data providers of this information, which begs the question, “Which one is right?”

The short answer is they all are. Similar to the data item of “employment”, which has a number of ways that it is measured by state and federal government agencies, job advertisement data providers each have various sources and methods of processing, resulting in different values that are produced for the same time period and geographic entity. An example, shown in the graph below, displays three data series of job advertisements that are available for the state of South Carolina over the period of January 2015 to June 2019.



The Conference Board, which recently changed its data supplier, produces the HWOL (Help Wanted Online®) series (blue). The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces an experimental series (gray), which is similar to its Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) data for states. Geographic Solutions, Inc., which is the website vendor for many state Labor Market Information (LMI) agencies, produces yet another series (orange).

Each provider has varying levels of detailed information, including geographies, occupations, industries and time frames available. SCDEW utilizes the HWOL series for most of its customer requests for this type of information. For more information on the data series in the chart, click on the links below.

- [HWOL](#)
- [State JOLTS](#)
- [Geosol-Data Trends-Advertised Job Data](#)