

INSIGHTS

5.5%
February
Unemployment Rate

Volume 6: Issue 1 January-February 2016

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

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

Economic Indicators

February 2016 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

United States SC

Labor Force	158,890,000	2,288,643
Employed	151,074,000	2,163,109
Unemployed	7,815,000	125,534
Unemp. Rate	4.9%	5.5%

Employment Momentum Continues in February

Employment continued expanding in February while the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged for the sixth consecutive month at 5.5 percent. People entering the labor force found work during the month as the employment level increased by 12,575 to a record of 2,163,100. Over the year, the state's employment growth continued to rise at a record-setting pace with 60,200 people finding work.

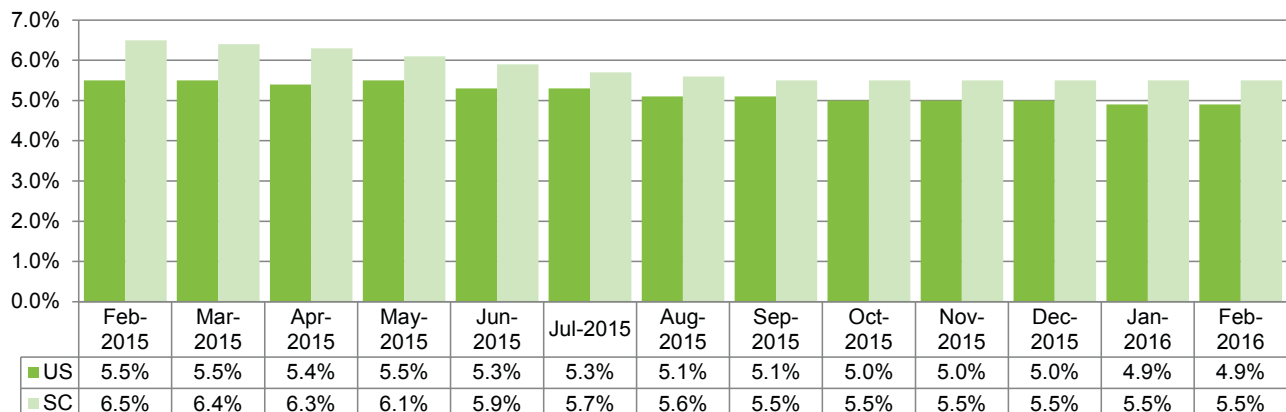
The labor force (those employed and those unemployed actively seeking work) increased by 13,600, to 2,288,650 people.

During February, the number of unemployed was little changed (+1,058) at 125,535 people. Throughout the year, this level has decreased by 20,215 people.

Nationally, the February unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent.



South Carolina vs US Unemployment Rate
February 2015 - February 2016



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 2014 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

Unemployment Rate Remains Steady in January 2016

Employment expanded in January, while the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5 percent. People entering the labor force found work as the over-the-month employment level increased by 10,850 to a record level of 2,149,850. Since January 2015, the state's employment growth continued to rise at a record-setting pace with 50,115 people finding work.

The labor force (those employed and those unemployed actively seeking work) moved upward, increasing by 11,070, to 2,274,500 people.

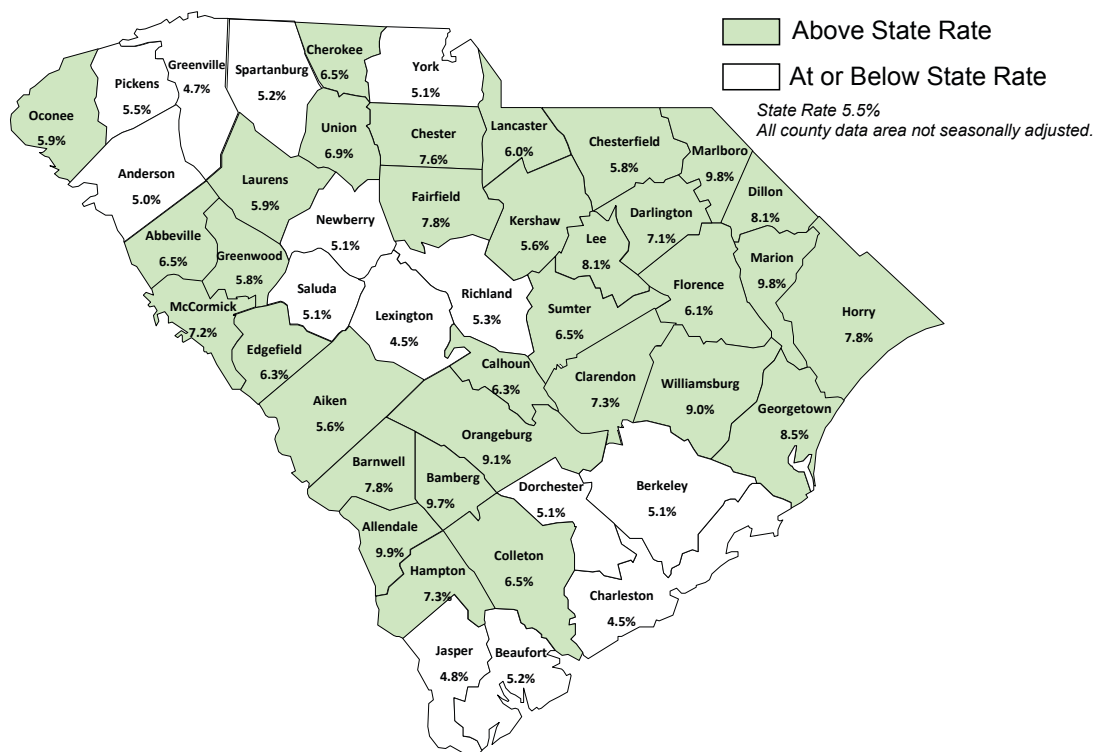
During January, the number of unemployed was little changed (+217) at 124,650 people. Throughout the year, this level has decreased by 22,130 people.

Nationally, the January unemployment rate was 4.9 percent.

January Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates across a wide range were distributed in January, ranging from 9.9 percent in Allendale County to 4.5 percent in Charleston County.

At the time of this publication, benchmark revisions in county labor force data have not been completed in the annual benchmarking process by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This process is expected to be completed by April 15th.



Mississippi	6.7
Alaska	6.6
New Mexico	6.5
District Of Columbia	6.5
Illinois	6.3
West Virginia	6.3
Nevada	6.2
Alabama	6.2
Louisiana	5.9
Kentucky	5.8
Washington	5.8
California	5.7
Arizona	5.6
North Carolina	5.6
Connecticut	5.5
<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>5.5</u>
Tennessee	5.4
Georgia	5.4
Rhode Island	5.4
Oregon	5.1
Florida	5.1
Michigan	4.9
New York	4.9
Ohio	4.9
<u>United States</u>	<u>4.9</u>
Maryland	4.8
Massachusetts	4.7
Delaware	4.7
Wyoming	4.7
Pennsylvania	4.6
Wisconsin	4.6
Indiana	4.6
New Jersey	4.5
Texas	4.5
Arkansas	4.4
Missouri	4.2
Virginia	4.1
Montana	4.1
Oklahoma	4.1
Kansas	4.0
Idaho	3.9
Maine	3.8
Minnesota	3.7
Iowa	3.5
Utah	3.4
Vermont	3.4
Colorado	3.2
Hawaii	3.2
Nebraska	3.0
New Hampshire	2.9
South Dakota	2.8
North Dakota	2.8

January 2016

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Allendale	9.9%	Charleston	4.5%
Marion	9.8%	Lexington	4.5%
Marlboro	9.8%	Greenville	4.7%
Bamberg	9.7%	Jasper	4.8%
Orangeburg	9.1%	Anderson	5.0%

January 2016

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earning	\$1,044.48	\$803.40
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.8	41.8
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$25.60	19.22

South Carolina Ranked 12th Highest of 51 States in February

In February 2016, 17 states had statistically significant over-the-month unemployment rate decreases from the previous month, eight states had increases, and 20 states and the District of Columbia had no change. In February, South Carolina ranked 12th highest out of 51.

The largest over-the-month increases in employment occurred in California (+39,900), New York (+25,100), and Pennsylvania (+21,100). The largest over-the-month decrease in employment occurred in New Jersey (-8,600), followed by Iowa (-6,200) and Louisiana (-4,700).

February Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates across the state were mixed in February. Rates ranged from 10.0 percent in Bamberg County to 4.5 percent in Charleston and Lexington Counties.

Over-the-month employment gains were noted in 41 counties. Horry County saw the largest increase (+2,529) as employers began preparation for the upcoming tourist season. Greenville (+2,028) and Charleston (+1,805) counties also marked healthy employment increases.

Looking forward, seasonal leisure and hospitality employment gains in coastal areas will accelerate as tourists return to the state's beaches, golf courses and other recreational areas.



Alaska	6.6
District Of Columbia	6.5
Mississippi	6.5
West Virginia	6.5
Illinois	6.4
New Mexico	6.4
Alabama	6.2
Louisiana	5.9
Nevada	5.9
Kentucky	5.8
Washington	5.8
Arizona	5.5
California	5.5
Connecticut	5.5
North Carolina	5.5
<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>5.5</u>
Georgia	5.4
Rhode Island	5.4
Wyoming	5.0
Florida	4.9
Ohio	4.9
Tennessee	4.9
<u>United States</u>	<u>4.9</u>
Michigan	4.8
New York	4.8
Oregon	4.8
Indiana	4.7
Maryland	4.7
Delaware	4.6
Pennsylvania	4.6
Wisconsin	4.6
Massachusetts	4.5
Texas	4.4
New Jersey	4.3
Arkansas	4.2
Missouri	4.2
Montana	4.2
Oklahoma	4.2
Virginia	4.1
Kansas	4.0
Idaho	3.9
Iowa	3.7
Minnesota	3.7
Maine	3.6
Utah	3.4
Vermont	3.4
Hawaii	3.1
Colorado	3.0
Nebraska	3.0
North Dakota	2.9
New Hampshire	2.7
South Dakota	2.7

February 2016

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Bamberg	10.0%	Charleston	4.5%
Allendale	9.9%	Lexington	4.5%
Marion	9.8%	Greenville	4.6%
Marlboro	9.6%	Jasper	4.8%
Orangeburg	9.0%	Anderson	5.0%

February 2016

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earning	\$1,043.66	\$777.77
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.8	41.0
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$25.58	\$18.97

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for January - Seasonally Adjusted

January's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls decreased by 10,100 over the month to a level of 2,025,100.

Government led the industry growth (+1,500), followed by Construction (+1,100); Education and Health Services (+900); Manufacturing (+400); and Financial Activities (+200).

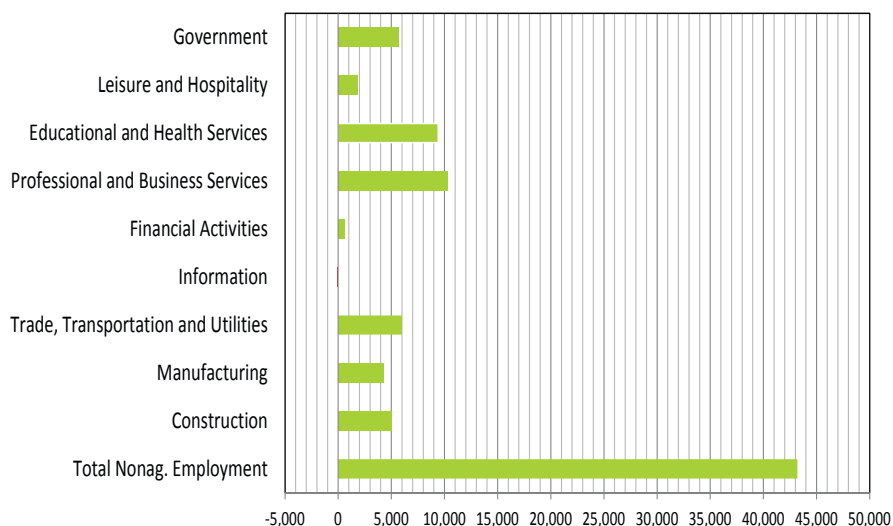
January's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment decreases occurred in Professional and Business Services (-4,500); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-3,900); Leisure and Hospitality (-3,500); Other Services (-2,000); and Information (-300).

An over-the-year upturn in nonfarm employment (+43,200) recorded the largest growth in Professional and Business Services (+10,300). Additional increases were in Education and Health Services (+9,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,000); Government (+5,700); Construction (+5,000); Manufacturing (+4,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,800); and Financial Activities (+600). Other Services remained the same, and Information reported a slight decline (-100).

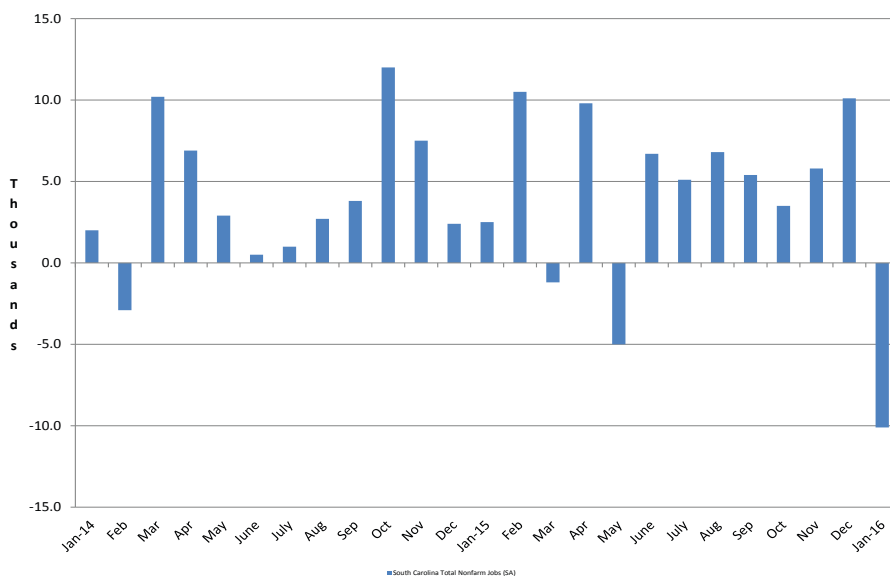
Metropolitan Statistical Areas seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment saw a drop over the month. A notable increase was seen in Charleston (+1,700), while Columbia and Sumter held steady. Florence saw a decline (-1,100).

Over-the-year growth in seasonally adjusted payroll occurred in every Metropolitan Statistical Area. Key increases were reported in Charleston (+10,800) and Columbia (+10,700) with additional employment increases in Florence (+700) and Sumter (+300).

**South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
January 2015 - January 2016 (SA)**



**SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2014 -2016**



Economic Indicators (Jan. 2016)

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	0.50%	3.29%
Columbia MSA	0.00%	2.82%
Sumter MSA	0.00%	0.78%
Florence MSA	-1.28%	0.82%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to

www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

(Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for February - Seasonally Adjusted

February seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by (+1,900) over the month to the level of 2,030,600.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,500) led the industry growth, followed by Leisure and Hospitality (+3,100). Additional growth occurred in Other Services (+1,400); Manufacturing (+1,300); Education and Health Services (+900); and Construction (+300).

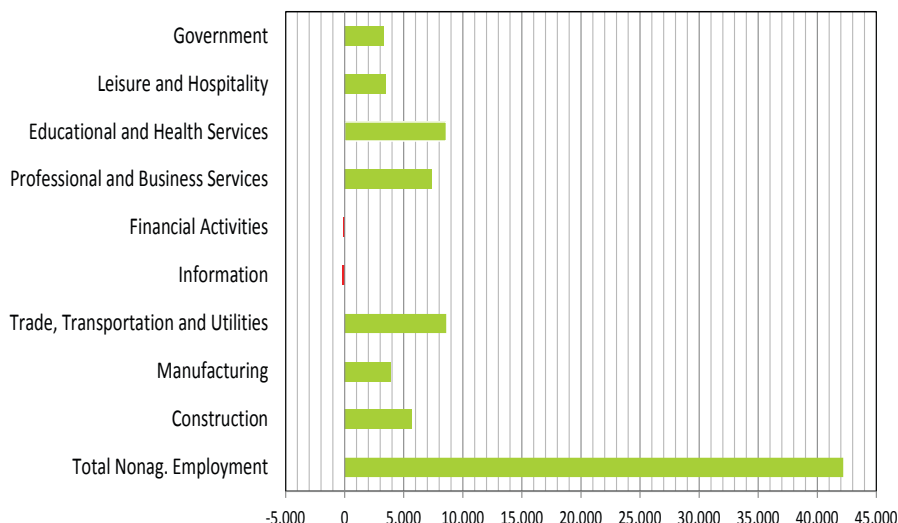
February's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment decreases occurred in Professional and Business Services (-6,700); Government (-1,200); Financial Activities (-600); and Information (-100).

The over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was 42,200 with the largest growth in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,600) and Education and Health Services (+8,600). Additional increases were Professional and Business Services (+7,400); Construction (+5,700); Manufacturing (+3,900); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,500); Government (+3,300); and Other Services (+1,300). Information (-200) and Financial Activities (-100) saw few job losses.

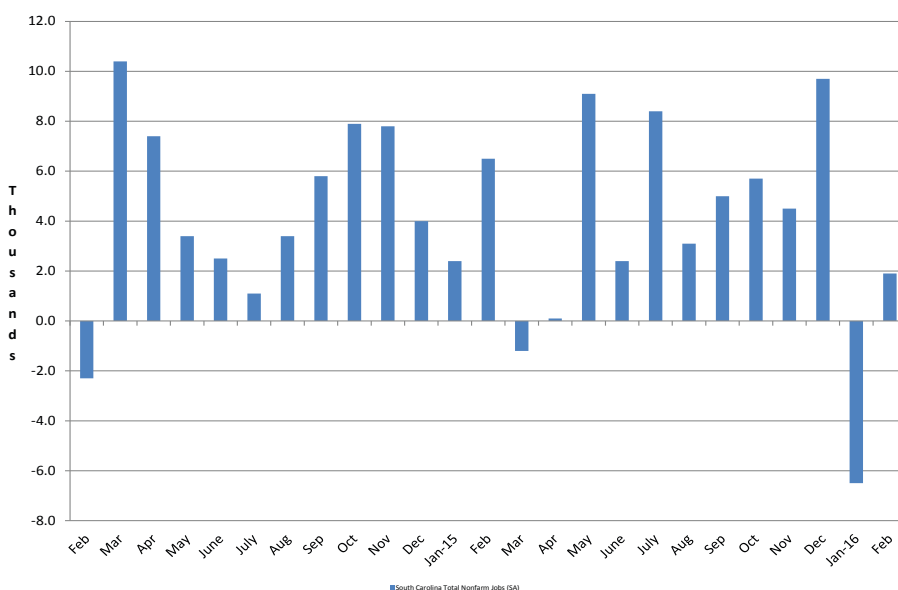
Metropolitan Statistical Areas' seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment increased slightly over the month. Sumter added (+600) jobs, followed by Florence (+500). Decreases were reported in Columbia (-2,500) and Charleston (-1,200).

Over the year, growth occurred in every Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted payroll. Key increases were reported in Charleston (+8,300) and Columbia (+7,100) with additional growth in Florence (+900) and Sumter (+900).

**South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
February 2015 - February 2016 (SA)**



**SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2014 -2016**



Economic Indicators (Feb. 2016)

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Sumter MSA	1.52%	2.33%
Florence MSA	0.58%	1.05%
Charleston MSA	-0.35%	2.52%
Columbia MSA	-0.64%	1.86%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to

www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

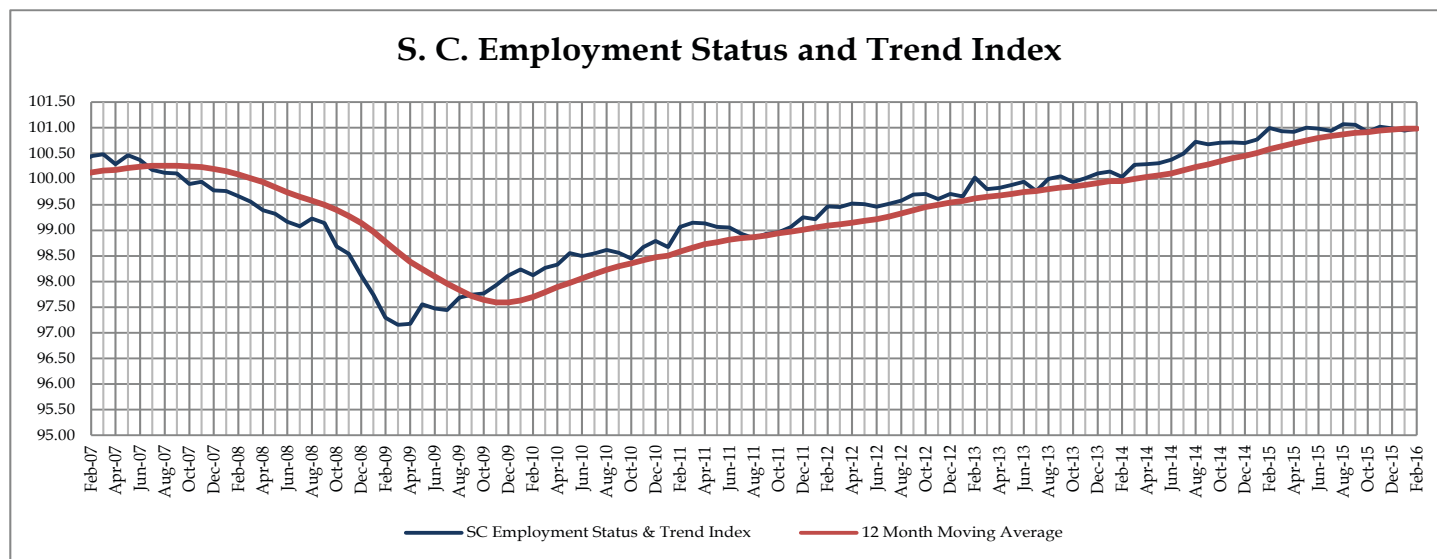
(Employment and Wage Data section)

Employment Changes by County
December 2015 through February 2016

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Dec 2015	Jan '16 - Feb '16	Dec '15 - Jan '16
Abbeville	9,851	9,707	10,219	144	-512
Aiken	69,476	69,427	69,930	49	-503
Allendale	2,432	2,452	2,701	-20	-249
Anderson	84,897	84,192	84,335	705	-143
Bamberg	4,884	4,881	5,225	3	-344
Barnwell	7,755	7,714	8,344	41	-630
Beaufort	67,814	66,858	64,570	956	2,288
Berkeley	89,365	88,606	87,133	759	1,473
Calhoun	6,538	6,535	6,630	3	-95
Charleston	190,714	188,909	186,245	1,805	2,664
Cherokee	22,208	21,941	22,822	267	-881
Chester	12,670	12,649	12,948	21	-299
Chesterfield	20,209	20,079	20,764	130	-685
Clarendon	12,144	12,096	12,437	48	-341
Colleton	15,932	15,773	16,368	159	-595
Darlington	28,025	27,795	27,736	230	59
Dillon	11,574	11,572	11,919	2	-347
Dorchester	69,203	68,627	67,548	576	1,079
Edgefield	9,967	10,004	10,101	-37	-97
Fairfield	9,479	9,463	9,526	16	-63
Florence	61,899	61,071	60,515	828	556
Georgetown	23,532	23,310	24,208	222	-898
Greenville	232,377	230,349	229,218	2,028	1,131
Greenwood	29,676	29,343	30,884	333	-1,541
Hampton	7,545	7,557	7,976	-12	-419
Horry	123,956	121,427	122,914	2,529	-1,487
Jasper	11,145	10,962	10,732	183	230
Kershaw	27,539	27,482	27,219	57	263
Lancaster	34,214	34,095	33,564	119	531
Laurens	28,874	28,661	28,940	213	-279
Lee	5,953	5,946	6,077	7	-131
Lexington	139,374	138,828	136,839	546	1,989
McCormick	3,257	3,216	3,425	41	-209
Marion	11,658	11,550	11,887	108	-337
Marlboro	8,776	8,699	9,341	77	-642
Newberry	17,937	17,966	18,213	-29	-247
Oconee	33,003	32,700	33,801	303	-1,101
Orangeburg	33,330	33,080	35,547	250	-2,467
Pickens	53,564	53,062	53,560	502	-498
Richland	189,679	188,666	187,298	1,013	1,368
Saluda	8,282	8,405	8,482	-123	-77
Spartanburg	134,660	133,631	132,731	1,029	900
Sumter	42,409	41,950	41,105	459	845
Union	11,040	10,952	11,047	88	-95
Williamsburg	11,840	11,761	12,239	79	-478
York	120,361	119,734	118,864	627	870

Initial Claims Drive Changes in the S. C. Employment Status and Trend Index

The S. C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) dropped 0.04 percent in January but rose 0.04 percent in February, ending the first two months of 2016 at 100.98. This was 0.09 points shy of the record set in August 2015. gyrations in Unemployment Insurance (UI) Initial Claims (down more than 12 percent in January but up almost 47 percent in February) fueled the change.



The other components (described on the next page) affecting the Index include:

- The Conference Board's S.C. Help Wanted Online® Advertisements (+1.94 percent in January; -0.73 percent in February);
- The Conference Board's U.S. Consumer Confidence Index (+1.35 percent in January; -5.73 percent in February);
- The Conference Board's U.S. Employment Trend Index (+0.25 percent in January; -1.05 percent in February); and
- Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours fell in both January (-2.11 percent) and February (-1.68 percent).

Compared with corresponding months in 2015:

- SCESTI was 0.18 percent higher in January and 0.01 percent lower in February;
- UI Initial Claims improved 6.46 and 16.2 percent for January and February, respectively;
- The Conference Board's U.S. Employment Trend Index rose 2.1 in January and 2.11 in February;
- The Conference Board's S.C. Help Wanted Online® Advertisements advanced 6.07 percent in January but lost 3.7 percent in February;
- Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours fell 0.48 and 1.68 percent for January and February, respectively; and
- The Conference Board's U.S. Consumer Confidence Index declined 5.78 in January and 6.68 percent in February.

After a year in which SCESTI set four all-time highs, the Index held its gains well in the first two months of 2016, keeping the value close to the overall record. Standing at 100.98, SCESTI shows a solid foundation for a steadily improving employment situation for South Carolina in the next three to six months.

Regional Community Profiles

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014

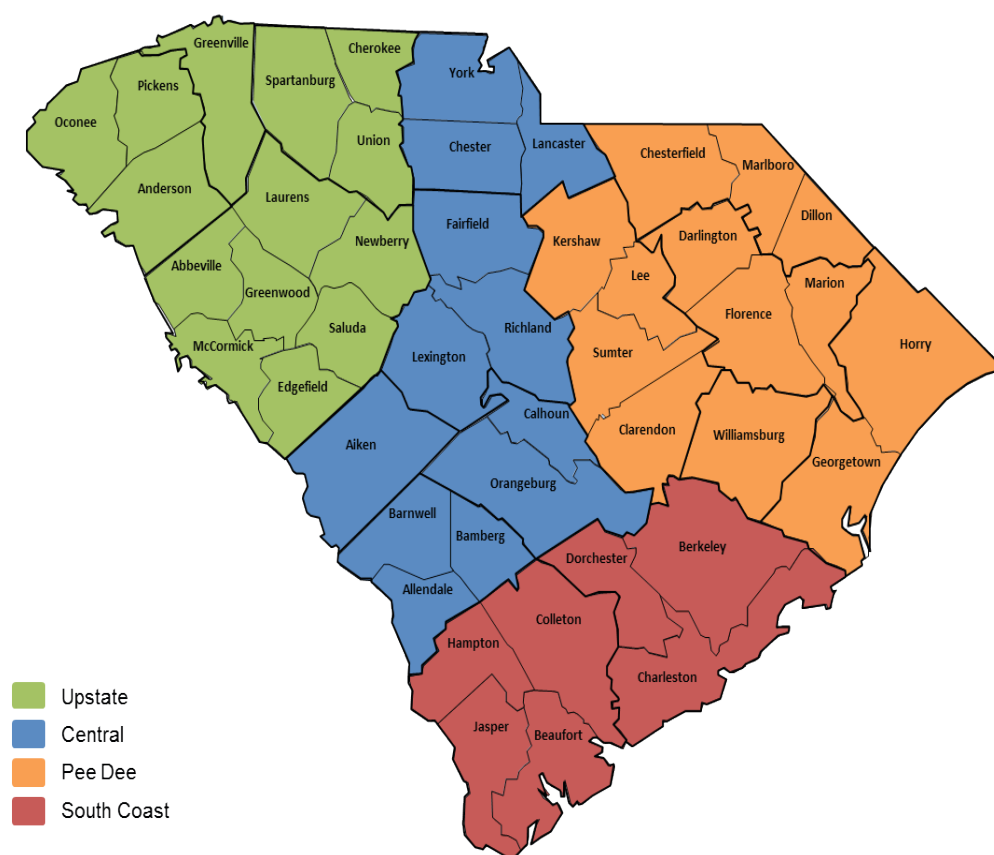
As a part of implementing the updated federal law on workforce development, South Carolina initiated a process to determine regional planning areas. The purpose of this activity was to:

- ☐ Align workforce and economic development activities and resources,
- ☐ Align training and education with economic growth, employment opportunities, and regional skills competency requirements,
- ☐ Provide coordinated and efficient services to jobseekers and employers at the regional level, and
- ☐ Support implementation of sector strategies and career pathways.

Four state agencies including the Department of Employment and Workforce, the Department of Education, the Department of Commerce, and the technical college system collaborated to develop a four-region system for the state as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1

South Carolina WIOA Planning Regions



(Continued)

Regional Community Profiles

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 - Continued

To provide the most up-to-date economic and workforce information for the regions, S. C. Department of Employment and Workforce is releasing community profile reports for each of the four areas which provide detailed economic, demographic, industry, occupation, and education statistics. These reports are available at the S. C. Department of Employment and Workforce labor market information website, SCworkforceinfo.com, and can be accessed in three clicks from the main page as shown in Figure 2. These reports will be continually updated to provide the latest available information.

Figure 2

