

INSIGHTS

Volume 5: Issue 6 July 2015

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

Economic Indicators

July 2015 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	157,106,000	2,254,166
Employed	148,840,000	2,110,719
Unemployed	8,266,000	143,447
Unemployed Rate	5.3%	6.4%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,025.23	\$801.16
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	42.1
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$ 25.19	\$ 19.03

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Florence MSA	2.09%	2.38%
Sumter MSA	1.25%	1.30%
Charleston MSA	0.27%	2.39%
Columbia MSA	0.18%	1.39%

Employment to Population Ratio (SA)

	2015	2014
U.S. Population Ratio	59.3%	59.0%
S.C. Population Ratio	55.4%	54.5%

Labor Force Participation Rate (SA)

	Jul	Jun	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	62.6%	62.6%	0.0%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.1%	59.3%	-0.2%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-Month CPI	0.2%
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Unemployment rate drops -0.2 percent for second month in a row
- Employment grows almost 60,000 since last year
- Unemployment rates in 41 counties decrease
- Unemployment rate at lowest level since July 2014

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Unemployment Rate Edges Lower

The state's unemployment rate has stayed in a range of 6.4 to 6.8 percent over the year. July's estimate moved down to the lower end of that range, declining to 6.4 percent from June's estimate of 6.6 percent.

Looking at employment estimates, the number of employed people dipped slightly by 655 to 2,110,719 people.

The labor force (those employed and those unemployed and actively seeking work) fell slightly by approximately 5,900 to an estimate of 2,254,166 people.

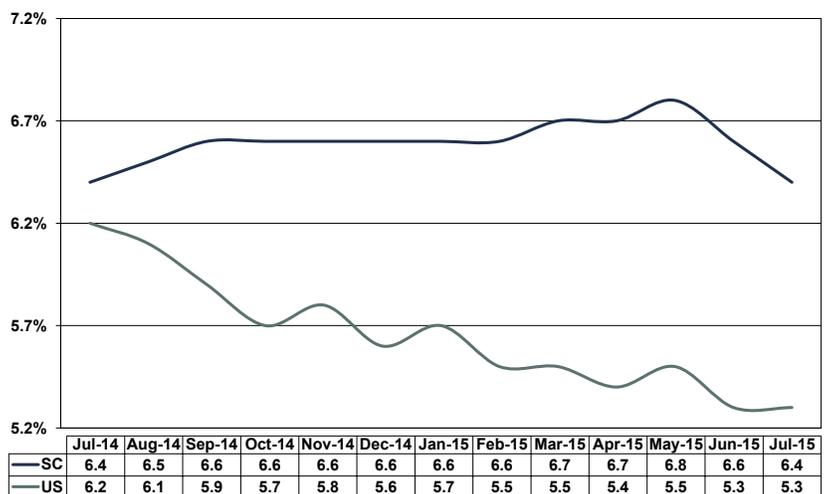
During July, the estimated number of unemployed decreased by nearly 5,280 people. The number of unemployed was estimated at about 143,450 people.

Over the year, approximately 59,675 people found employment. The number of unemployed people increased by nearly 3,800, while the unemployment rate remained flat. Approximately 63,500 people entered the labor force over the year.

Nationally, over the month, the July unemployment rate showed no change at 5.3 percent.

During the year, employment gains have been notable in South Carolina. As the state's labor force grew rapidly, the vast majority of those people found work. This has been a testament to the state's expanding economy. Looking forward, we remain optimistic about employment opportunities for job seekers in the Palmetto State.

Unemployment Rates in South Carolina and the United States
July 2014 – July 2015 Seasonally Adjusted



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](#).

State Unemployment Rates

West Virginia	7.5
District Of Columbia	6.8
Nevada	6.8
Alaska	6.7
Mississippi	6.5
New Mexico	6.5
South Carolina	6.4
Alabama	6.2
California	6.2
Louisiana	6.2
Arizona	6.1
Georgia	6.0
New Jersey	5.9
North Carolina	5.9
Oregon	5.9
Illinois	5.8
Missouri	5.8
Rhode Island	5.8
Tennessee	5.7
Arkansas	5.6
Connecticut	5.4
Florida	5.4
New York	5.4
Pennsylvania	5.4
Michigan	5.3
United States	5.3
Washington	5.3
Kentucky	5.2
Maryland	5.2
Ohio	5.0
Virginia	4.8
Delaware	4.7
Indiana	4.7
Massachusetts	4.7
Kansas	4.6
Maine	4.6
Wisconsin	4.6
Oklahoma	4.5
Colorado	4.3
Texas	4.2
Idaho	4.1
Wyoming	4.1
Minnesota	4.0
Montana	4.0
Iowa	3.8
South Dakota	3.8
Hawaii	3.7
New Hampshire	3.7
Utah	3.6
Vermont	3.6
North Dakota	3.0
Nebraska	2.7

South Carolina Ranked 7th Highest of 51 in July

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 24 states and the District of Columbia experienced decreases in their unemployment rates, 14 states had increases, and 12 states remained unchanged. In July, South Carolina's ranked seventh highest out of 51.

The most significant over-the-month acceleration in employment occurred in Wyoming at 0.9 percent, followed by Oklahoma and Rhode Island at 0.7 percent. The largest reduction in employment was in North Dakota at -0.5 percent, followed by Hawaii, Kansas, New Jersey, and West Virginia at -0.3 percent each.

Over the year, nonfarm employment increased in 47 states and the District of Columbia, decreased in two states, and Alaska was unchanged. The largest over-the-year uptrend occurred in Utah at 4.4 percent, followed by Nevada at 3.7 percent, and Florida at 3.5 percent.

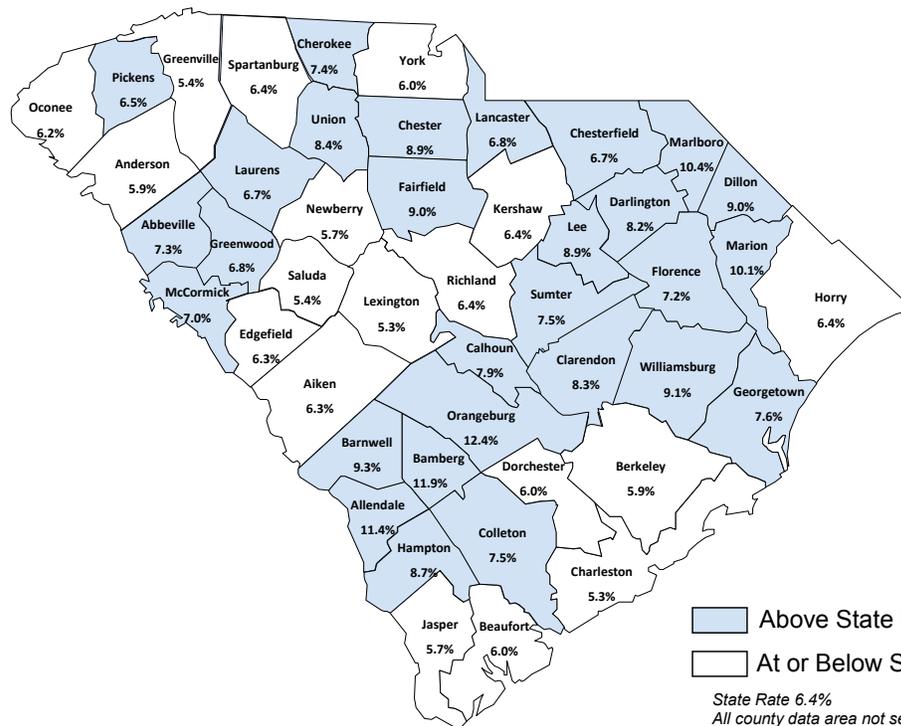
July Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted, county unemployment rates across the state declined over the month. Unemployment rates decreased in 41 counties, four counties experienced increases, and one county remained unchanged. Rates ranged from 12.4 percent in Orangeburg County to 5.3 percent in Charleston and Lexington counties.

Over the year, Greenville County continued to set the mark for people finding work with approximately 7,200 people obtaining employment. Charleston (4,800), York (3,800), and Spartanburg (3,200) counties have seen strong growth as well.

Since July 2014, all 46 counties across the state have marked employment gains, a significant accomplishment.

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Orangeburg	12.4%	Charleston	5.3%
Bamberg	11.9%	Lexington	5.3%
Allendale	11.4%	Greenville	5.4%
Marlboro	10.4%	Saluda	5.4%
Marion	10.1%	Jasper	5.7%



Employment Changes by County May 2015 through July 2015

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Jul 2015	Jun 2015	May 2015	Jun '15 - Jul '15	May '15 - Jun '15
Abbeville	10,069	10,069	10,024	0	45
Aiken	70,341	69,769	69,956	572	-187
Allendale	2,750	2,735	2,644	15	91
Anderson	83,782	83,684	83,255	98	429
Bamberg	5,255	5,240	5,109	15	131
Barnwell	8,339	8,315	8,210	24	105
Beaufort	68,217	67,892	66,951	325	941
Berkeley	87,776	87,481	87,221	295	260
Calhoun	6,580	6,551	6,516	29	35
Charleston	187,183	186,314	186,327	869	-13
Cherokee	22,456	22,488	22,339	-32	149
Chester	12,767	12,818	12,795	-51	23
Chesterfield	20,646	20,606	20,402	40	204
Clarendon	12,481	12,424	12,206	57	218
Colleton	16,278	16,219	16,127	59	92
Darlington	27,702	27,664	27,557	38	107
Dillon	12,012	11,965	11,696	47	269
Dorchester	68,055	67,806	67,609	249	197
Edgefield	10,230	10,116	10,094	114	22
Fairfield	9,431	9,404	9,362	27	42
Florence	59,907	59,880	60,126	27	-246
Georgetown	24,626	24,537	24,099	89	438
Greenville	227,564	227,357	226,289	207	1,068
Greenwood	30,590	30,592	30,292	-2	300
Hampton	8,238	8,189	7,955	49	234
Horry	134,531	133,815	129,730	716	4,085
Jasper	11,225	11,128	11,078	97	50
Kershaw	26,929	26,856	26,751	73	105
Lancaster	32,992	33,118	33,161	-126	-43
Laurens	28,791	28,727	28,565	64	162
Lee	6,108	6,086	5,977	22	109
Lexington	134,947	134,668	134,496	279	172
McCormick	3,386	3,375	3,372	11	3
Marion	12,058	12,029	11,830	29	199
Marlboro	9,273	9,277	9,140	-4	137
Newberry	18,319	18,245	17,848	74	397
Oconee	33,580	33,534	33,183	46	351
Orangeburg	35,308	35,254	34,807	54	447
Pickens	53,109	53,040	52,872	69	168
Richland	184,250	184,162	184,113	88	49
Saluda	8,627	8,536	8,332	91	204
Spartanburg	129,593	129,818	129,725	-225	93
Sumter	41,200	41,032	40,755	168	277
Union	10,780	10,793	10,796	-13	-3
Williamsburg	12,226	12,203	12,024	23	179
York	116,490	117,007	117,445	-517	-438

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for July - Seasonally Adjusted

In July 2015, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 3,300 over the month to reach a level of 2,001,800. The increase in employment was primarily due to gains in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,200) and Construction (+1,200).

During July, additional increases occurred in Financial Activities (+800); Information (+500); Leisure and Hospitality (+500); and Government (+200). Industries reporting decreases were Other Services (-900); Manufacturing (-500); Education and Health Services (-500); and Professional and Business Services (-100).

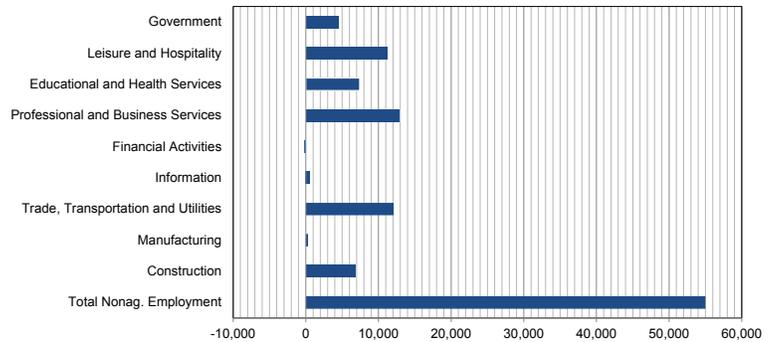
Over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was 55,000 with the largest increases in the Professional and Business Services (+12,800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+12,100); and Leisure and Hospitality (+11,200). Strong growth occurred in Education and Health Services (+7,400); Construction (+6,800); and Government (+4,500). Modest gains were seen in Information (+600) and Manufacturing (+300), while Other Services and Financial Activities reported declines of (-300) and (-200), respectively.

All four Metropolitan Statistical Areas' (MSA) seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment saw upturns over the month. Florence reported strong gains of (+1,800), followed by Charleston (+900), Columbia (+700), and Sumter (+500).

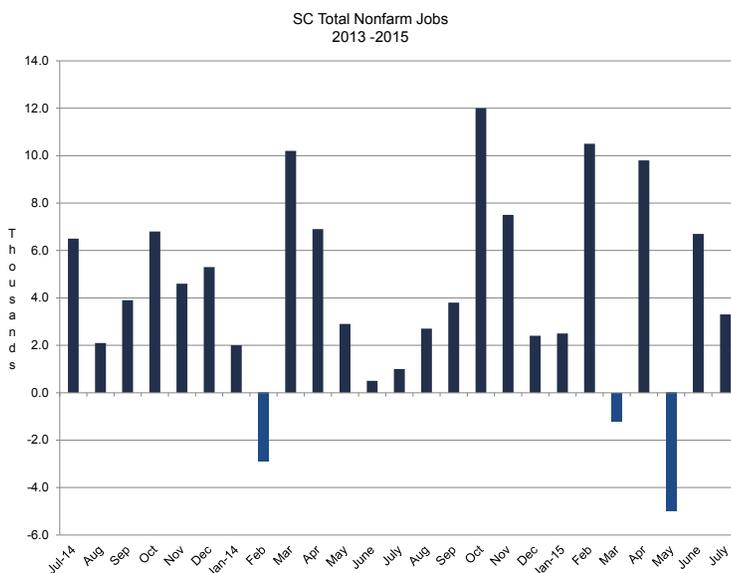
Over the year, growth was seen in MSAs' seasonally adjusted, payroll employment. The largest increase was reported in Charleston (+7,700) with additional employment gains in Columbia (+5,200), Florence (+2,000), and Sumter (+500).

As a result of the new MSA redefinition, there are only four South Carolina MSAs publishable under nonfarm, seasonally adjusted employment. MSAs are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and are the result of the latest published standards from Census Bureau data. (The standards for defining the areas are reviewed and revised once every 10 years prior to each decennial census). Therefore, with the release of the 2014 benchmark, Current Employment Survey (CES) will incorporate the updates to area definitions based

**South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
July 2014 - July 2015 (SA)**



on the new standards from the 2010 Census. As a result of the new standards, breaks have been created in the time series for these areas. Due to the breaks in the time series, BLS will be unable to publish all of the redefined areas on a seasonally adjusted basis. The South Carolina areas based on the 2010 standards and Census Bureau data were defined in February 2013.



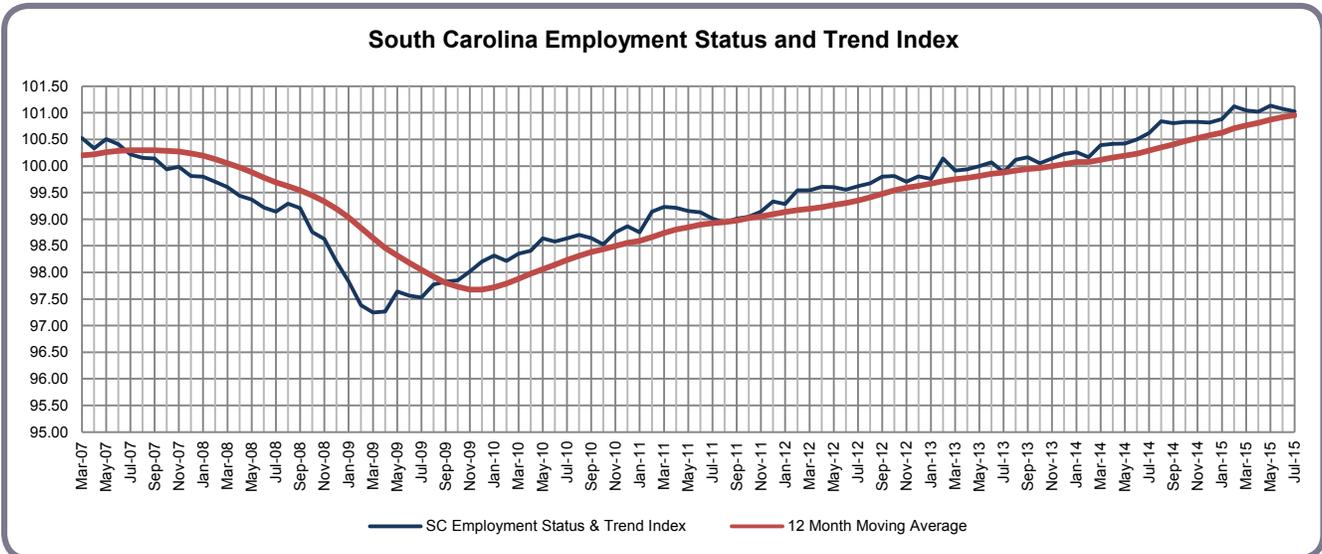
To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Fell

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) dropped 0.05 percent, ending July at 101.02, 0.11 point shy of its life-time record it set in May of this year. Leading SCESTI down for the month was an almost 10 percent increase of the SC Unemployment Initial Claims, coupled with an almost nine percent fall of the Conference Board’s US Consumer Confidence Index and a 0.47 percent shrink of the SC Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours. On the other hand, a more than 1.32 percent surge of the Conference Board’s SC Help Wanted Online Ads and a 0.25 percent rise of the Conference Board’s US Employment Trends Index prevented SCESTI from larger losses.

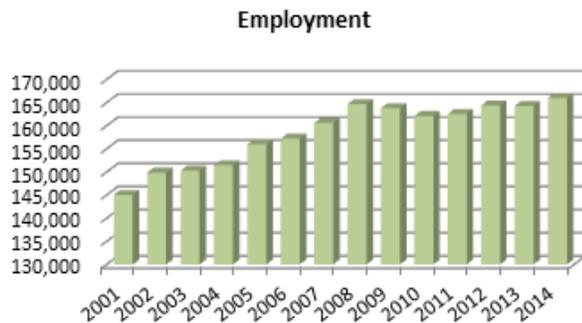
Compared with July 2014, SCESTI was 0.4 percent higher. All the index components also managed improvements for the same period of time. The SC Unemployment Initial Claims were 7.27 percent lower than July 2014. The Conference Board’s SC Help Wanted Online Ads gained almost 7 percent. The Conference Board’s US Employment Trends Index was 3.45 percent higher, and the Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours increased almost 3 percent. Finally, the Conference Board’s Consumer Confidence Index was 0.66 percent higher than 12 months ago.

July marks the second month in a row of SCESTI’s decline. While it still remains above its 12-month moving average, the amount of it is largely reduced. Besides, July’s data showed a weakening consumer confidence, which is too important for the health of our economy and employment conditions to neglect. Therefore, close attention needs to be given to the movement of the consumer confidence in the coming months.



Educational Services

As the economy in South Carolina continues to thrive, enrollment in universities, colleges, and technical schools also continues to grow. The Education and Health Services sector is on the rise as major companies seek to locate or expand in South Carolina. According to the South Carolina Department of Commerce, companies deciding to locate to or expand in the state in 2014 are contributing \$5.088 billion in investment over the next several years, while creating 19,020 new jobs. The educational services industry reached an annual average employment level of 165,980 in South Carolina during 2014. The average establishments and weekly wages for the Educational Services industry (total ownership) in South Carolina as of 2014 were 2,377 and \$775, respectively. Since 2013, educational services have added an average of 20 employers increasing employment levels to 1,719 people.



Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

Employment Trends

Strong annual gains in Education Services' not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm jobs were up 1,400 from June 2014 to June 2015, marking a 4.19 percent change. The long-term industry employment projections for Education Services in 2012 were estimated at 164,216. The employment projection for 2022 stands at 182,632, an annual average employment change of 1,841 (1.1%).

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity ACT (WIOA)

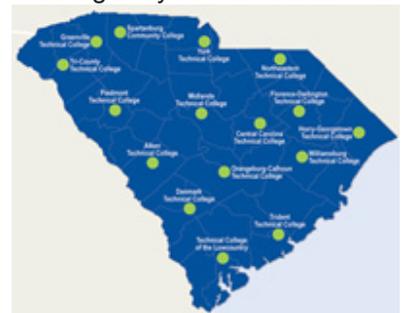
In July 2014, a new bill aimed to bolster state's workforce training programs was signed into law by the President. The law is designed to integrate training services with state and local partners, to increase access to on-the-job training, and to encourage more apprenticeship programs.

Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education states that "the law will provide the opportunities for workers and learners to obtain the foundation skills necessary for 21st century jobs and foster a modern workforce that can compete in a global economy."

Several years ago, there was a shortage of skilled workers; apprenticeship programs nationwide had fallen. In 2007, there were only 90 companies in South Carolina that had apprenticeship programs. Today, there are nearly 11,000 apprentices and 670 companies. The Educational Services sector comprises establishments that provide instruction and training in a wide variety of subjects. This instruction and training is provided by specialized establishments, such as schools, colleges, universities, and training centers. WIOA will help bridge employers with skilled employable workers and build a cohesive and productive workforce. Ergo, as businesses seek to invest heavily in South Carolina, these programs will connect individuals with the opportunities and the skills required to gain employment.

ReadySC: South Carolina's Job Creation

The state's technical college system's Center for Accelerated Technology Training, called "readySC™", is currently working with 16 technical colleges to recruit, screen, test, and provide comprehensive workforce training.



Programs such as WIOA and readySC™ are the pipeline to service employers with critical skilled labor needs.

Records were set in June 2014 for the biggest job announcement in South Carolina. Three separate businesses announced that they will add more than 7,000 new jobs to the state's labor market. GiTi Tire, 1,700; The Lash Group, 2,400; and LPL Financial LLC, 3,000 will establish new facilities in Chester and York counties. Recently, Volvo Cars Corporation announced that South Carolina will be the home of its first American manufacturing facility. Volvo Corporation will generate \$500 million in capital investments and 4,000 new jobs in Berkeley County, South Carolina. The anticipated employment growth merits the need for training and educating the workforce as potential businesses seek talented and skilled workers.