

INSIGHTS

5.2%

July
Unemployment Rate

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SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

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

Economic Indicators

July - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	159,287,000	2,303,434
Employed	151,517,000	2,182,646
Unemployed	7,770,000	120,788
Unemp. Rate	4.9%	5.2%

Unemployment Rate Lowest Since June 2001

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July dropped to its lowest level since June 2001. The rate decreased to 5.2 percent in July from 5.4 percent in June.

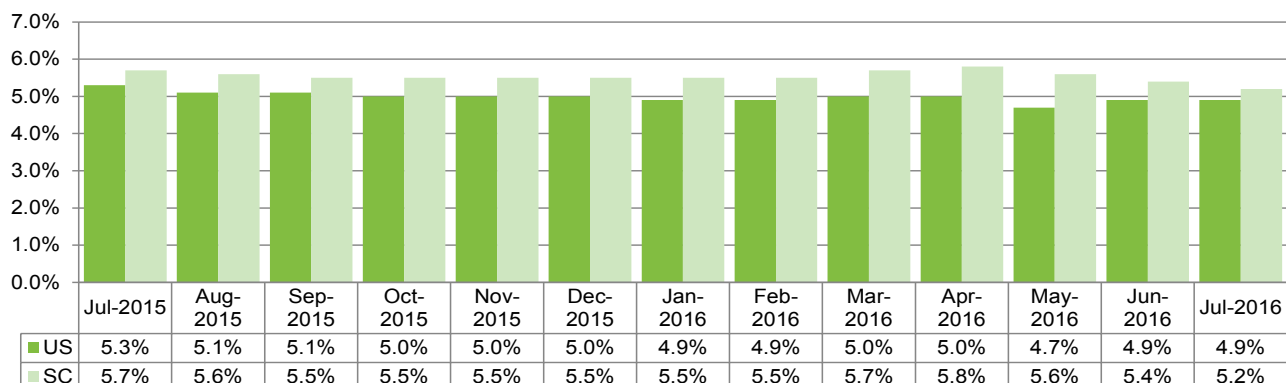
Over the month, unemployment declined by 4,858 to 120,788, while employment declined by 2,430 people to 2,182,646. This resulted in a decrease in the labor force of 7,288 people to a total of 2,303,434. July's numbers registered the third consecutive monthly decrease in the unemployment rate.

Over the year, the unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points from 5.7 percent, with the number of unemployed down 8,310. The number of people employed increased by 60,603, and the labor force rose by 52,293.

Nationally, the unemployment rate remained the same from June to July at 4.9 percent.



South Carolina vs US Unemployment Rate
Jul 2015 - Jul 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 2015 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

South Carolina Ranked 17th of 50 States in July

Unemployment rates were higher in seven states during July, lower in three states and stable in 40 states and the District of Columbia (DC).

Ten states and the District of Columbia had notable unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, three states had increases and 37 states had no significant change.

South Dakota and New Hampshire had the lowest jobless rates in July of 2.8 percent and 2.9 percent, respectively. Alaska had the highest unemployment rate of 6.7 percent. In total, 20 states had unemployment rates lower than the National rate of 4.9 percent, 14 states and the District of Columbia had higher rates and 16 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.

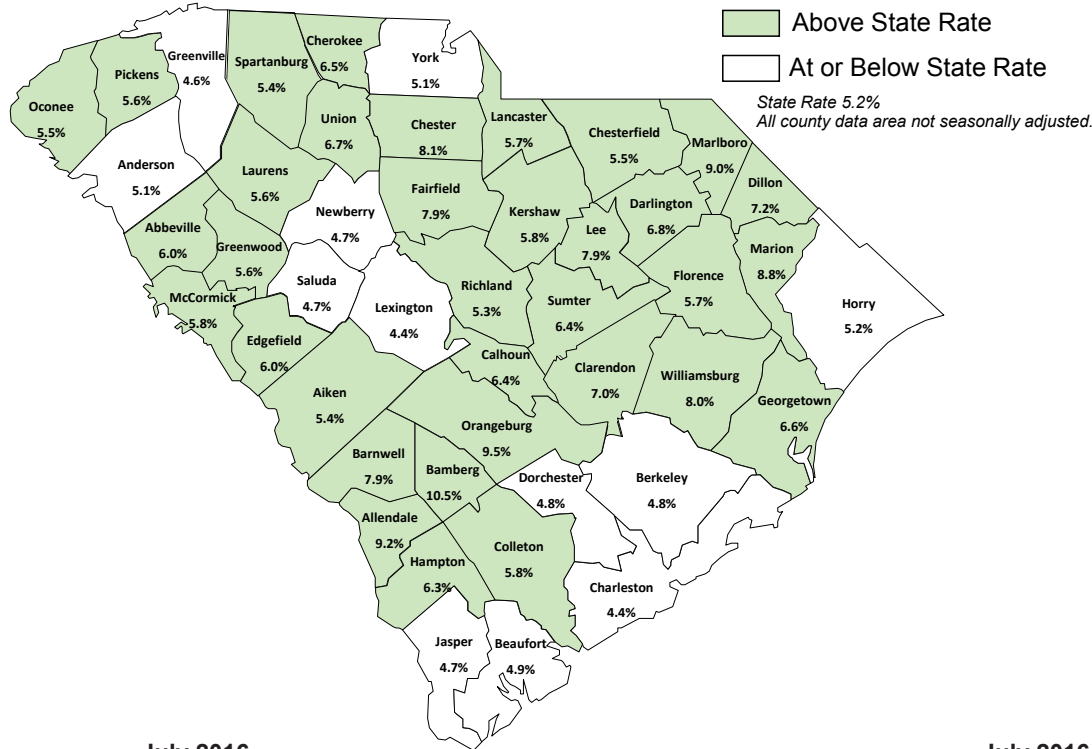
In July, South Carolina ranked 17th highest in the Nation.

July Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates decreased across the state in many of the counties during July. Rates ranged from 10.9 percent in Bamberg County to 4.4 percent in Charleston and Lexington counties. Unemployment decreased by nearly 6,400 people over the month.

Over the past month, employment gains were noted in 25 counties. The coastal counties of Horry (+1,670), Charleston (+1,261) and Beaufort (+768) marked the largest gains due to continued tourism influence.

Over the year, all counties marked employment growth with Charleston (+6,821), Greenville (+5,383), Richland (+5,042) and Horry (+4,624) seeing the largest expansion.



Alaska	6.7
Nevada	6.5
New Mexico	6.4
Louisiana	6.3
Arizona	6.0
Mississippi	6.0
District Of Columbia	5.9
Illinois	5.8
Washington	5.8
Alabama	5.7
Connecticut	5.7
West Virginia	5.7
Wyoming	5.7
Pennsylvania	5.6
California	5.5
Rhode Island	5.5
New Jersey	5.2
Oregon	5.2
South Carolina	5.2
Georgia	5.0
Oklahoma	5.0
Kentucky	4.9
United States	4.9
Ohio	4.8
Florida	4.7
Missouri	4.7
New York	4.7
North Carolina	4.7
Indiana	4.6
Texas	4.6
Michigan	4.5
Delaware	4.3
Maryland	4.3
Tennessee	4.3
Montana	4.2
Wisconsin	4.2
Iowa	4.1
Kansas	4.1
Massachusetts	4.1
Arkansas	3.9
Maine	3.9
Minnesota	3.9
Utah	3.9
Colorado	3.8
Idaho	3.8
Virginia	3.7
Hawaii	3.5
Vermont	3.2
Nebraska	3.1
North Dakota	3.1
New Hampshire	2.9
South Dakota	2.8

July 2016

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Bamberg	10.5%	Charleston	4.4%
Orangeburg	9.5%	Lexington	4.4%
Allendale	9.2%	Greenville	4.6%
Marlboro	9.0%	Jasper	4.7%
Marion	8.8%	Newberry	4.7%

July 2016

Economic Indicators		
Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earning	\$1,058.20	\$808.98
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	41.7
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$26.00	\$19.40

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for July - Seasonally Adjusted

July's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,700 over the month to a record level of 2,053,300.

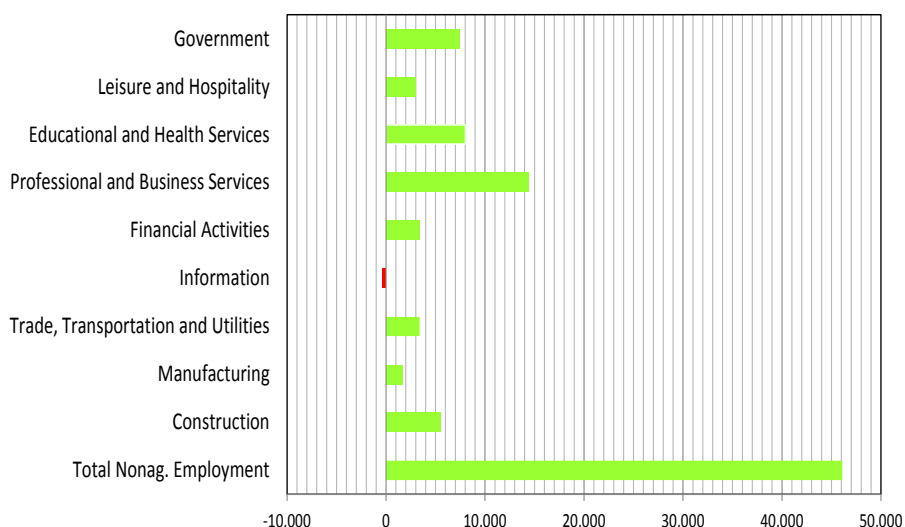
The most prominent increases were in Professional and Business Services (+2,300) and Government (+2,100). Growth was also reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+800); Educational and Health Services (+400); and Financial Activities (+100). The industries marking declines included Manufacturing (-1,000); Construction (-900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-500); Other Services (-400); and Information (-200).

This month's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up by 46,100 compared to July 2015. Upswings in employment were recorded in Professional and Business Services (+14,400); Education and Health Services (+8,000); Government (+7,400); Construction (+5,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,400); Financial Activities (+3,400); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,000); and Manufacturing (+1,700). Other Services (-500) and Information (-400) fell slightly.

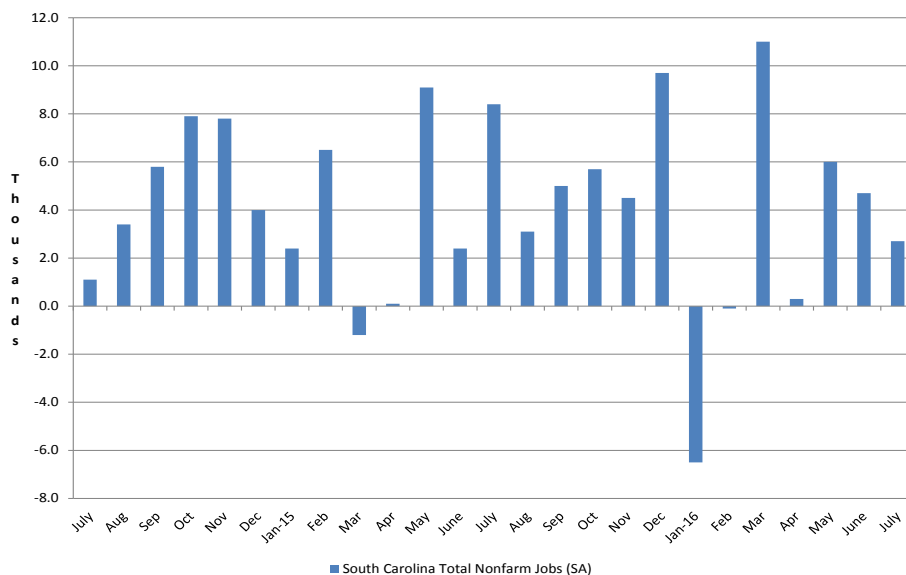
Over the month, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment in the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) marked strong job growth in Charleston (+2,200); Columbia (+800); and Sumter (+500). However, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in Florence (-500).

Nearly every MSA saw seasonally adjusted payroll employment growth compared to last year. Most noticeable growth was in Charleston (+9,800) and Columbia (+8,200), followed by Florence (+900) and Sumter (+600).

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



**SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2014 -2016**



Economic Indicators (July 2016)

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	0.64%	2.93%
Columbia MSA	0.20%	2.13%
Florence MSA	-0.57%	1.05%
Sumter MSA	1.27%	1.54%

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

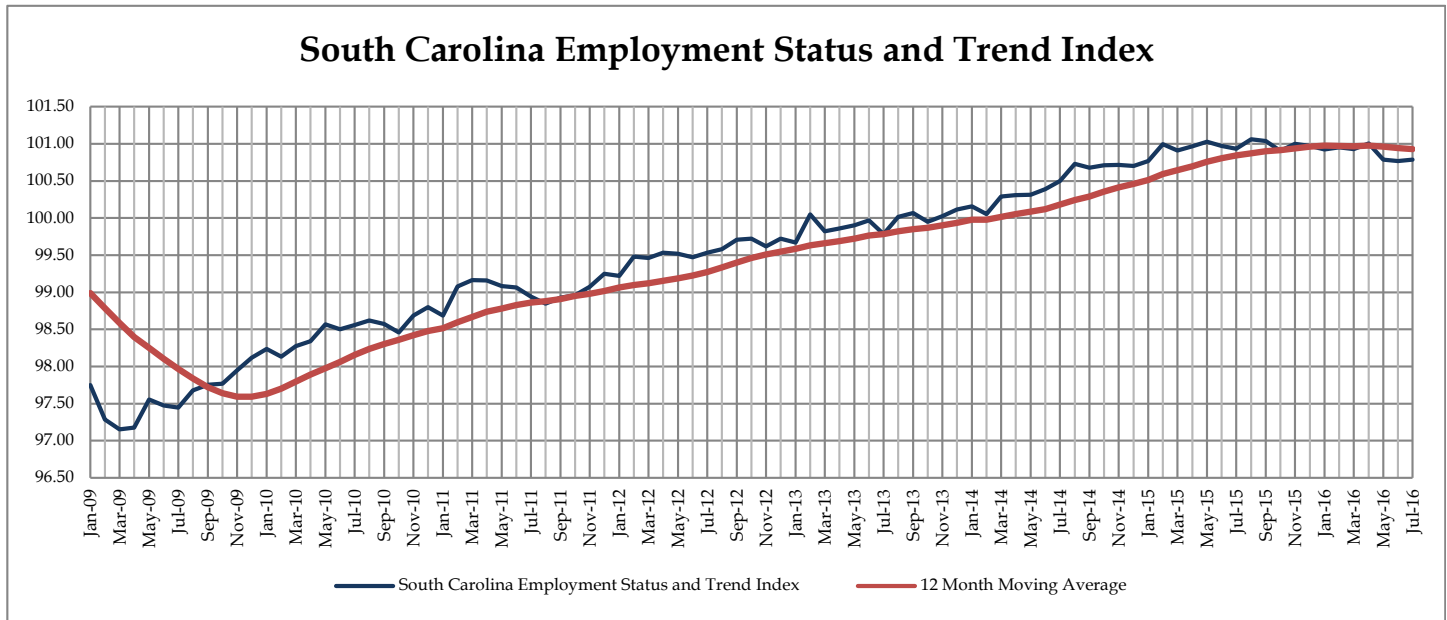
www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

(Employment and Wage Data section)

Employment Changes by County
May 2016 through July 2016

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Jul 2016	Jun 2016	May 2016	Jun '16 - Jul '16	May '16 - Jun '16
Abbeville	9,935	10,000	9,979	-65	21
Aiken	71,277	70,965	70,420	312	545
Allendale	2,613	2,594	2,557	19	37
Anderson	85,870	86,011	85,966	-141	45
Bamberg	5,123	5,111	5,056	12	55
Barnwell	7,980	7,978	7,920	2	58
Beaufort	72,986	72,218	70,770	768	1,448
Berkeley	92,149	91,409	90,459	740	950
Calhoun	6,729	6,707	6,682	22	25
Charleston	196,734	195,473	193,703	1,261	1,770
Cherokee	22,305	22,456	22,386	-151	70
Chester	12,871	12,975	12,895	-104	80
Chesterfield	20,773	20,848	20,738	-75	110
Clarendon	12,591	12,582	12,500	9	82
Colleton	16,370	16,394	16,306	-24	88
Darlington	28,497	28,542	28,528	-45	14
Dillon	12,126	12,092	11,980	34	112
Dorchester	71,425	70,855	70,124	570	731
Edgefield	10,397	10,334	10,237	63	97
Fairfield	9,697	9,671	9,638	26	33
Florence	62,148	62,479	62,639	-331	-160
Georgetown	24,781	24,743	24,460	38	283
Greenville	234,701	235,134	235,053	-433	81
Greenwood	30,138	30,259	30,129	-121	130
Hampton	8,140	8,066	7,927	74	139
Horry	139,971	138,301	134,322	1,670	3,979
Jasper	11,984	11,915	11,729	69	186
Kershaw	28,139	28,066	27,979	73	87
Lancaster	34,648	34,973	34,802	-325	171
Laurens	29,332	29,372	29,350	-40	22
Lee	6,169	6,152	6,109	17	43
Lexington	141,656	141,457	141,160	199	297
McCormick	3,303	3,319	3,311	-16	8
Marion	12,194	12,176	12,057	18	119
Marlboro	8,982	9,004	8,946	-22	58
Newberry	18,792	18,717	18,539	75	178
Oconee	33,687	33,779	33,631	-92	148
Orangeburg	34,242	34,313	34,117	-71	196
Pickens	54,073	54,212	54,224	-139	-12
Richland	191,535	191,337	191,016	198	321
Saluda	8,914	8,811	8,717	103	94
Spartanburg	133,378	134,777	134,748	-1,399	29
Sumter	42,336	42,295	42,339	41	-44
Union	10,940	11,059	11,061	-119	-2
Williamsburg	12,182	12,193	12,118	-11	75
York	121,291	122,576	122,087	-1,285	489

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index



For the month of July, the South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), which is an aggregate of eight labor-market indicators, remained essentially flat, edging slightly higher to 100.79 from June's unchanged 100.77 figure. July marks the third straight month that the index has been below its 12-month moving average. The relative flatness of the index reflects underlying components which moved in various directions during the month.

The Bureau of Labor Statistic's Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed average manufacturing hours declining from a revised 42.3 hours per week in June to 41.7 hours per week in July. Other index components were either flat or moved in positive directions. The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index was essentially unchanged, falling 0.1 points from June. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance were unchanged from the previous month at an average 3,272 initial claims per week. The number of available job openings posted online, via the Conference Board's Help Wanted Online (HWOL) data, showed an increase of 1,800 monthly jobs, up from 57,900 total jobs in June to 59,700 job postings in July. This increase is particularly significant because the HWOL data has been declining since November 2015 when 72,500 available jobs were posted online. Finally, the Conference Board's own Employment Trends Index increased in July, rising to 128.28 points over March's value of 127.89.

Compared to July of 2015, the SCESTI is 0.14 points below the year-ago value of 100.98. From a year-over-year perspective, the index had exhibited a period of relative non-movement until May of 2016, when it dropped 0.21 points to 100.79 (the same value as July), and moved below its 12-month moving average.

Some Additional Measures of the Labor Force

Often when data about the labor force is published it mostly focuses on the unemployment rate or the increase/decrease in the payroll estimates for the nation or a particular state over a given month. However, there is a lot of supplemental data that is published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that provides additional insight into the health of the labor force. Some of these added measures are described below.

The **Employment to Population Ratio** describes the portion of people working as a percentage of the civilian population that is 16 years or older. In year 2015, that percentage for the nation was approximately 59.4 percent. That means that 59.4 percent of the nation's population, ages 16 years and older, was working. The other 40.6 percent was not employed. This could be due to various reasons such as: retirement, furthering one's education, disability, discouragement about job prospects, caring for a sick or elderly family member, or not currently interested in working.

The **Labor Force Participation Rate** describes the percentage of the civilian population that is 16 years or older that is working or unemployed and actively seeking employment. In year 2015, that percentage for the nation was approximately 62.7 percent. Similar reasons for not participating in the labor force are retirement, discouragement about job prospects, caring for a family member, and staying in school to further one's education.

The **Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population, by sex, age, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and marital status** provides data about various demographic groups within the nation and states. Comparing this information can provide insight into whether the employment of a particular group is impacted more or less than others by recent economic conditions.

The **Employment status of the experienced civilian labor force, by occupation** provides data about the level of employment and unemployment by various occupations within states and the country. Comparing this information can provide insight into whether the employment of a particular occupation is impacted more or less than others by recent economic conditions.

The **Employment status of the experienced civilian labor force, by industry** provides data about the level of employment and unemployment by various industries within the states and the nation. Comparing this information can provide insight into whether the employment of a particular industry is impacted more or less than others by recent economic conditions.

The **Employed and unemployed persons by full-time and part-time status, sex, age, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity** provides data about the level of employment and unemployment of various demographic groups by part-time and full-time status. From this data one can determine how many people in various demographic groups are working full-time, part-time for economic or noneconomic reasons as well as how many unemployed people are looking for full-time or part-time work.

The **Unemployed persons by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and duration of unemployment** provides data about many people in a particular demographic group are unemployed for less than 5 weeks, 5 to 14 weeks, 15 to 26 weeks, 27 to 51 weeks, and more than 52 weeks.

These data types listed above can be found on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website. Moreover, the data can provide policy makers information to aid in generating legislation and resources to help improve economic conditions in particular areas of the nation or for particular demographic groups or industries.