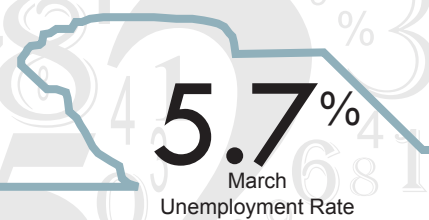


# INSIGHTS



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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 March - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)		
	United States	SC
Labor Force	159,286,000	2,306,133
Employed	151,320,000	2,174,788
Unemployed	7,966,000	131,345
Unemp. Rate	5.0%	5.7%

## Labor Force Expansion Continues at Record Levels

### Unemployment Rate Moves Up

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 5.7 percent in March from 5.5 percent in February, marking the first increase since September 2014. The uptick was primarily due to the large number of people entering the labor force.

The number of individuals working increased in March by 12,079 to a record level of 2,174,788. Unemployed individuals increased 5,851 to 131,345, while the labor force set a record for the highest ever monthly increase of 17,930, totaling 2,306,133 people.

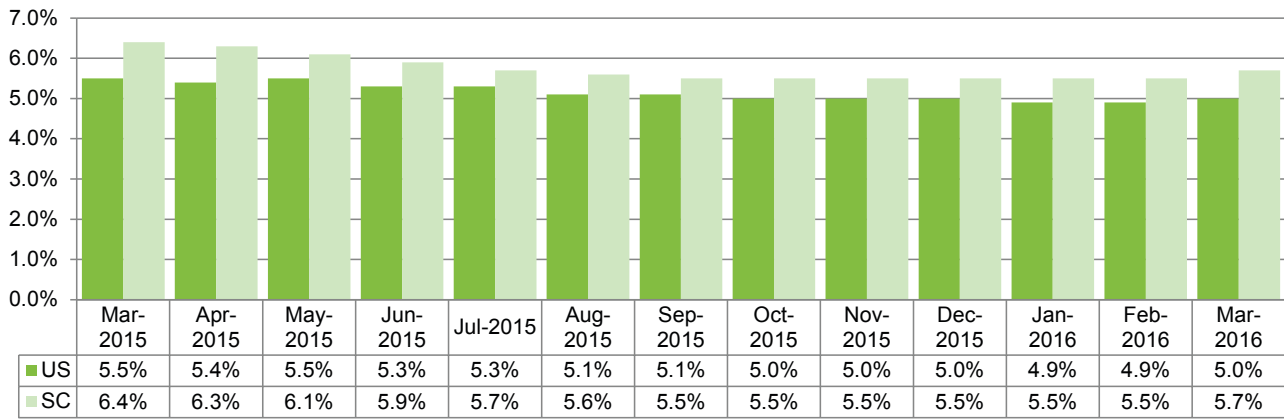
Over the past year, employment gains tallied 68,757, and the level of unemployed decreased by 12,574. The labor force had an over-the-year growth of 56,183 people.

Nationally, March's unemployment rate increased to 5 percent from February's rate of 4.9 percent.

Looking ahead, we remain optimistic about job opportunities for new graduates entering the labor force in the second quarter of this year.



South Carolina vs US Unemployment Rate  
March 2015 - March 2016



## South Carolina Ranked 11th Highest of 51 States in March

Regional and state unemployment rates were little changed in March. Twenty-one states had unemployment rate decreases from February, 15 states had increases, and 14 states and the District of Columbia had no change. In March, South Carolina ranked 11th highest out of 51 states.

The largest over-the-month increases in employment occurred in Maryland (+19,300), Ohio (+18,300), and New Jersey (+17,300). The largest over-the-month decrease in employment occurred in Texas (-12,000), followed by Indiana (-9,000) and Oklahoma (-5,800).

Nationally, March's unemployment rate increased to 5 percent from February's rate of 4.9 percent.

Alaska	6.6
District Of Columbia	6.5
Illinois	6.5
West Virginia	6.5
Mississippi	6.3
Alabama	6.2
New Mexico	6.2
Louisiana	6.1
Nevada	5.8
Washington	5.8
Connecticut	5.7
<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	<a href="#">5.7</a>
Kentucky	5.6
Georgia	5.5
North Carolina	5.5
Arizona	5.4
California	5.4
Rhode Island	5.4
Wyoming	5.2
Ohio	5.1
Indiana	5.0
<a href="#">United States</a>	<a href="#">5.0</a>
Florida	4.9
Pennsylvania	4.9
Michigan	4.8
New York	4.8
Maryland	4.7
Oregon	4.5
Tennessee	4.5
Wisconsin	4.5
Delaware	4.4
Massachusetts	4.4
New Jersey	4.4
Oklahoma	4.4
Montana	4.3
Texas	4.3
Missouri	4.2
Arkansas	4.0
Virginia	4.0
Kansas	3.9
Idaho	3.8
Iowa	3.8
Minnesota	3.7
Utah	3.5
Maine	3.4
Vermont	3.3
Hawaii	3.1
North Dakota	3.1
Nebraska	3.0
Colorado	2.9
New Hampshire	2.6
South Dakota	2.5

## March Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates across the state varied over the month in March. Rates ranged from 9.8 percent in Allendale County to 4.6 percent in Lexington County.

Over the month, employment gains were noted in all 46 counties. Horry County saw the largest increase in employment (+4,050) as tourism influences remained in play. Richland (+2,506) and Greenville (+2,346) counties also marked healthy employment increases.

Over the year, the counties of Greenville (+8,717), Richland (+7,703), Charleston (+6,518), and Spartanburg (+5,870) have accounted for nearly 40 percent of the state's estimated employment growth.



March 2016

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Allendale	9.8%	Charleston	4.6%
Bamberg	9.7%	Lexington	4.6%
Marion	9.3%	Greenville	4.7%
Marlboro	9.1%	Jasper	4.9%
Orangeburg	8.9%	Anderson	5.1%

March 2016

Economic Indicators		
Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earning	\$1,043.01	\$804.75
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.6	42.2
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$25.69	\$19.07

## South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for March - Seasonally Adjusted

Seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls in March increased 11,400 over the month, to a record high level of 2,040,000.

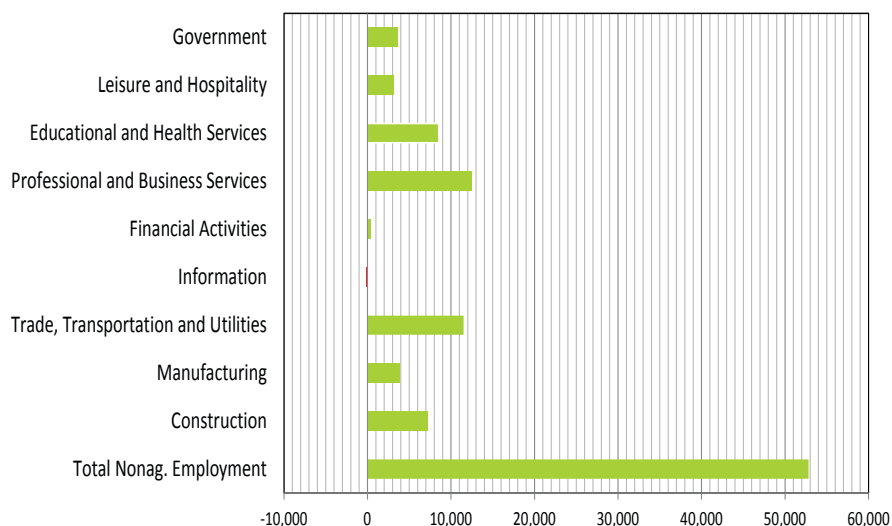
Healthy increases were recorded in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,900); Professional and Business Services (+3,800); Construction (+1,700); and Other Services (+1,000). Additional growth occurred in Education and Health Services (+800); Information (+100); Leisure and Hospitality (+100); and Government (+100). Financial Activities remained the same, while Manufacturing (-100) saw a slight reduction.

Compared to a year ago, nonfarm jobs were up 52,800 with Professional and Business Services (+12,500) and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,500) leading the increase. Additional over-the-year growth was reflected in Education and Health Services (+8,500); Construction (+7,200); Government (+3,600); Manufacturing (+3,200); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,200); Other Services (+2,700); and Financial Activities (+400). Only Information (-200) saw a drop.

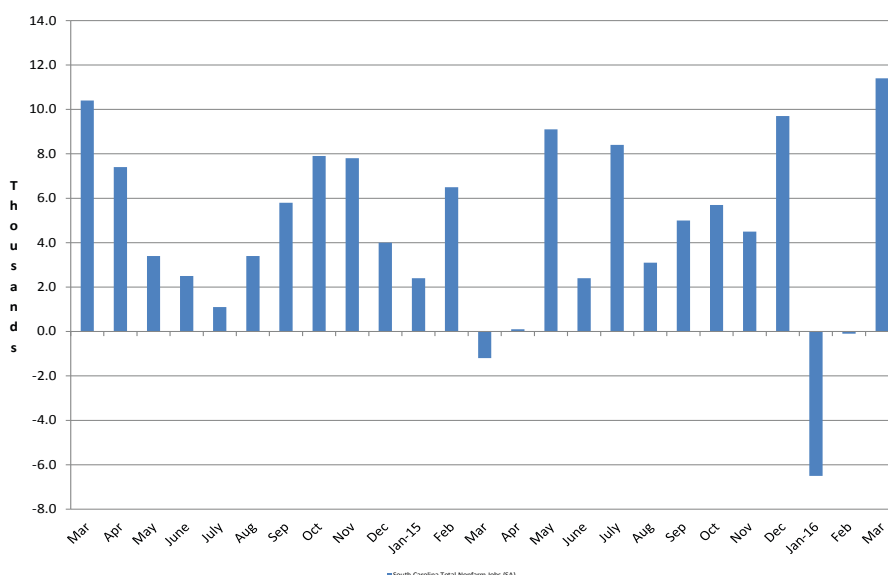
Every Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) saw seasonally adjusted payroll employment increases over the month. Top upticks include Columbia (+3,600), Charleston (+1,800), Florence (+1,000), and Sumter (+200).

Since March 2015, increases continued in the MSAs' seasonally adjusted payroll. Noticeable growth was reported in Columbia (+11,900) and Charleston (+8,800), with additional upticks in Florence (+1,600) and Sumter (+1,100).

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



**SC Total Nonfarm Jobs  
2014 - 2016**



### Economic Indicators (Mar. 2016)

#### Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Florence MSA	1.14%	1.86%
Columbia MSA	0.92%	3.12%
Charleston MSA	0.53%	2.66%
Sumter MSA	0.50%	2.85%

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

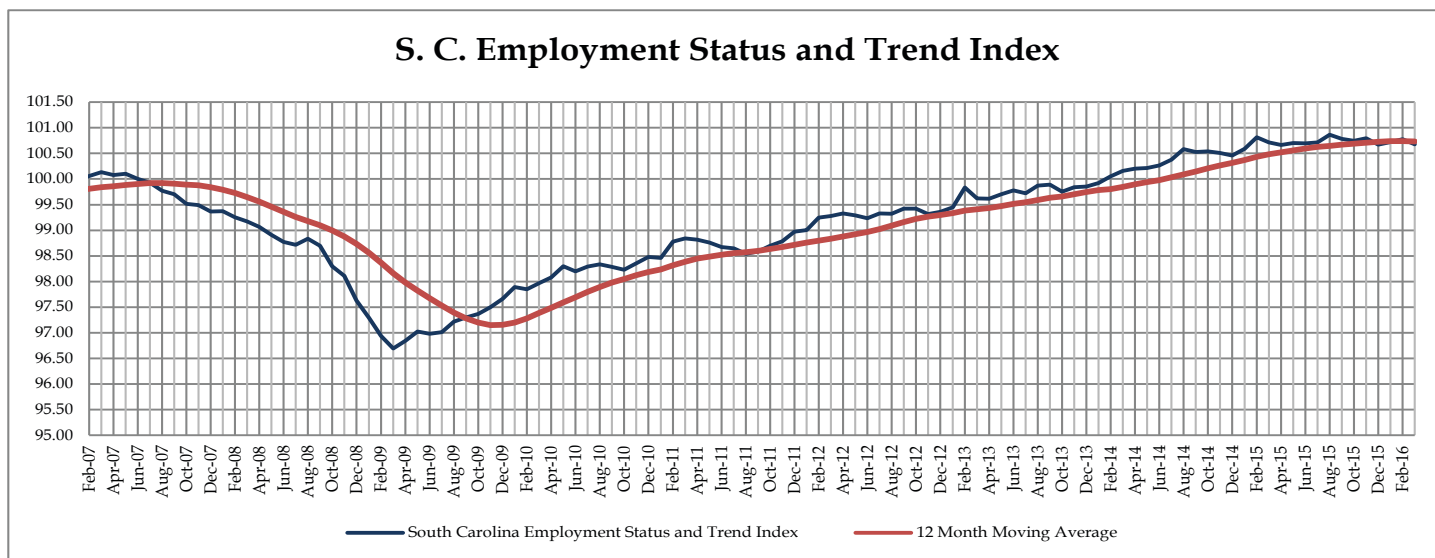
[www.SCWorkforceInfo.com](http://www.SCWorkforceInfo.com)

(Employment and Wage Data section)

**Employment Changes by County**  
**January 2016 through March 2016**

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Jan 2016	Feb '16 - Mar '16	Jan '16 - Feb '16
Abbeville	9,932	9,800	9,707	132	93
Aiken	70,070	69,588	69,427	482	161
Allendale	2,456	2,418	2,452	38	-34
Anderson	85,883	85,027	84,192	856	835
Bamberg	4,929	4,854	4,881	75	-27
Barnwell	7,821	7,720	7,714	101	6
Beaufort	69,035	67,739	66,858	1,296	881
Berkeley	90,082	89,117	88,606	965	511
Calhoun	6,633	6,550	6,535	83	15
Charleston	192,144	190,197	188,909	1,947	1,288
Cherokee	22,389	22,110	21,941	279	169
Chester	12,809	12,657	12,649	152	8
Chesterfield	20,396	20,122	20,079	274	43
Clarendon	12,244	12,087	12,096	157	-9
Colleton	16,049	15,856	15,773	193	83
Darlington	28,429	28,011	27,795	418	216
Dillon	11,685	11,517	11,572	168	-55
Dorchester	69,754	69,012	68,627	742	385
Edgefield	10,047	9,983	10,004	64	-21
Fairfield	9,620	9,498	9,463	122	35
Florence	62,759	61,868	61,071	891	797
Georgetown	23,836	23,423	23,310	413	113
Greenville	235,081	232,735	230,349	2,346	2,386
Greenwood	29,939	29,522	29,343	417	179
Hampton	7,639	7,513	7,557	126	-44
Horry	127,907	123,857	121,427	4,050	2,430
Jasper	11,320	11,133	10,962	187	171
Kershaw	27,949	27,594	27,482	355	112
Lancaster	34,580	34,179	34,095	401	84
Laurens	29,202	28,918	28,661	284	257
Lee	6,020	5,938	5,946	82	-8
Lexington	141,450	139,656	138,828	1,794	828
McCormick	3,281	3,243	3,216	38	27
Marion	11,818	11,613	11,550	205	63
Marlboro	8,853	8,721	8,699	132	22
Newberry	18,128	17,870	17,966	258	-96
Oconee	33,295	32,863	32,700	432	163
Orangeburg	33,640	33,161	33,080	479	81
Pickens	54,175	53,646	53,062	529	584
Richland	192,575	190,069	188,666	2,506	1,403
Saluda	8,401	8,297	8,405	104	-108
Spartanburg	135,742	134,859	133,631	883	1,228
Sumter	42,726	42,394	41,950	332	444
Union	11,126	11,057	10,952	69	105
Williamsburg	11,949	11,780	11,761	169	19
York	121,649	120,240	119,734	1,409	506

## South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Slides



The South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) fell 0.1 points in March after a revised 0.06 point February advance to stand at 100.68 for the month. This pullback was a result of a 4.6 percent decline in the number of jobs available online through the Conference Board's S. C. Help Wanted Online® data series, combined with a drop in seasonally-adjusted Average Manufacturing Weekly Hours of 0.1 hours per week and a drop in the Conference Board's U.S. Employment Trends Index of 0.83%. While these index components negatively affected the SCESTI, other components showed positive movement, although not enough to counter the negatives. Average Weekly initial claims for Unemployment Insurance declined 12.51 percent. The March decline represents the second monthly drop since the seasonal January spike in claims due to layoffs of seasonal holiday workers. Additionally, the Conference Board's U.S. Consumer Confidence Index rose 2.31 percent.

The 12-month moving average reveals a flattening of the index with overall changes in the SCESTI 12-month moving average having remained within a 0.03 point range since November. Compared to a year ago, the index is 0.03 points lower than its value in March 2015.

SCESTI has fallen below its 12-month moving average for the third time in the last four months after its components were reindexed during their annual benchmarking. This indicates a more uncertain employment growth situation in the following three to six months.

## Comparing Monthly Employment Surveys

### What do They Measure?

### How Are The Surveys Different?

#### Current Employment Survey

The Current Employment Survey (CES) is based on 146,000 businesses and government agencies, representing 623,000 worksites throughout the United States.

Data produced from the CES survey includes nonfarm employment series for all employees, production and nonsupervisory employees, and female employees, as well as average hourly earnings, average weekly hours, and average weekly overtime hours (in manufacturing industries) for both all employees and production and nonsupervisory employees.

Employment data by aggregate industry sector and most major industry sectors is published as far back as 1939.

Payroll employment data is published for both private and government sectors. This data is available for nonfarm industries.

Hours and earnings data is published only for the private sector. This data is produced for all private-sector employees on business payrolls and also for production and nonsupervisory employees. Production and nonsupervisory employees include production employees in mining, logging and manufacturing, construction employees in construction, and non-supervisory employees in private service-providing industries.

The survey reference period is the pay period including the 12th of the month. This can vary according to an establishment's length of pay period, a factor taken into account when compiling the data.

CES data is classified according to the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

CES monthly employment series are the first economic indicator of current economic trends each month, together with the unemployment rate, and are inputs to many gauges of the U.S. economy including:

- The overall health of the economy (employment)
- Earnings trends and wage-push inflation (average hourly earnings)
- Short-term fluctuations in demand (average weekly hours)

CES employment series are inputs into other major economic indicators:

- Personal Income (aggregate earnings)
- Industrial Production (aggregate hours in manufacturing, mining, and public utilities)
- Index of Leading Economic Indicators (average weekly hours of production employees in manufacturing)
- Index of Coincident Indicators (employment)
- Productivity measures (aggregate hours)

CES employment series can also inform other areas of business, research, and policy:

- Public policy
- Wage negotiations
- Economic research and planning
- Industry studies

(Continued)



## Comparing Monthly Employment Surveys What do They Measure? How Are The Surveys Different? - Continued

### Current Population Survey

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly household survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics that provides a comprehensive body of information on the employment and unemployment experience of the nation's population, classified by age, sex, race, and a variety of other characteristics.

It's a sample of about 60,000 households. Data is collected by personal and telephone interviews. Basic labor force data is gathered monthly; data on special topics is gathered in periodic supplemental surveys.

Data from the survey includes:

- Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over by age, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, educational attainment, marital status, and veteran status
- Employed persons by occupation, industry, self-employment, hours of work, full- or part-time status, and reasons for working part-time
- Employed multiple jobholders by occupation, industry, and full- or part-time status of multiple jobs
- Unemployed persons by occupation and industry of last job, duration of unemployment, and reason for unemployment
- Discouraged workers and other persons not in the labor force
- Special topics, such as the labor force status of particular subgroups of the population, including workers and persons with disabilities. Data is also available on job tenure, school enrollment of workers, and volunteering
- Information on weekly and hourly earnings by demographic characteristics, occupation, educational attainment, union affiliation, and full- and part-time employment status

Data from the CPS is used for:

- Economic indicators
- A measure of national employment and unemployment
- Source of data on employment status and characteristics of the labor force, emerging trends, and changes
- Measurement of potential labor supply
- Determining factors affecting changes in labor force participation of different population groups
- Evaluation of wage rates and earnings trends for specific demographic groups