

INSIGHTS

Volume 5: Issue 4 May 2015

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

Economic Indicators

May 2015 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	157,469,000	2,263,293
Employed	148,795,000	2,109,984
Unemployed	8,674,000	153,309
Unemployed Rate	5.5%	6.8%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,024.01	\$790.66
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	42.6
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$ 25.16	\$ 18.56

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	-0.03%	3.21%
Columbia MSA	-0.37%	1.37%
Sumter MSA	-0.79%	-1.55%
Florence MSA	-0.83%	0.83%

Employment to Population Ratio (SA)

	2015	2014
U.S. Population Ratio	59.4%	58.9%
S.C. Population Ratio	55.5%	54.5%

Labor Force Participation Rate (SA)

	May	Apr	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	62.9%	62.8%	0.1%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.5%	59.4%	0.1%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-Month CPI	0.0%
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HIGHLIGHTS

- New labor force record set
- Over 5,600 increase in employment over the month

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



Employment Growth Remains Vigorous – Unemployment Rate Trends Upward

May's seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate increased to 6.8 percent in May from April's estimate of 6.7 percent. The estimated number of employed people set a new record of approximately 2,109,990 people, increasing nearly 5,600 over the month. Additionally, the labor force (those employed and those unemployed actively seeking work) set a new record of approximately 2,263,300 people.

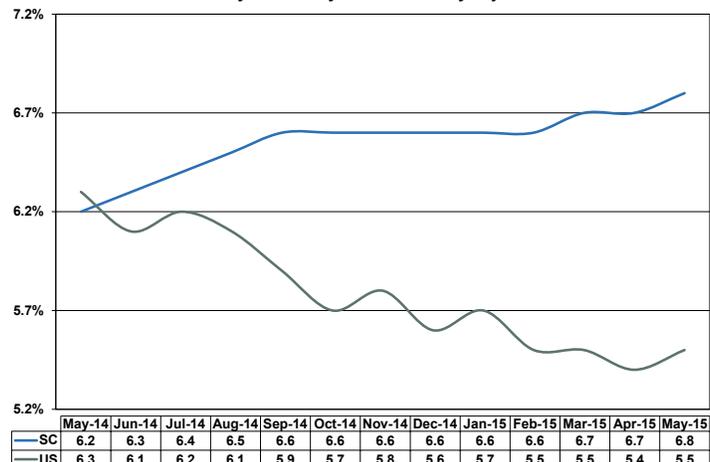
During May, the estimated number of unemployed increased by nearly 1,860 people. The number of unemployed was estimated at about 153,300 people.

Over the year, approximately 65,000 people found work. The number of unemployed people increased by nearly 19,000, as the unemployment rate increased 0.6 percentage point. Approximately 84,000 people entered the labor force over the year.

Nationally, over the month, the May unemployment rate increased from 5.4 to 5.5 percent.

Employment levels continue to trend upward at a stellar pace, reflecting vigorous growth in the state's economy. As the summer season arrives, along with recent business investment announcements, we remain optimistic about employment opportunities for job seekers in our great state.

Unemployment Rates in South Carolina and The United States
May 2014 – May 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

District Of Columbia	7.3
West Virginia	7.2
Nevada	7.0
Alaska	6.8
South Carolina	6.8
Mississippi	6.7
Louisiana	6.6
New Jersey	6.5
California	6.4
Georgia	6.3
New Mexico	6.2
Alabama	6.1
Connecticut	6.0
Illinois	6.0
Rhode Island	5.9
Arizona	5.8
Missouri	5.8
Tennessee	5.8
Arkansas	5.7
Florida	5.7
New York	5.7
North Carolina	5.7
Michigan	5.5
United States	5.5
Pennsylvania	5.4
Washington	5.4
Maryland	5.3
Oregon	5.3
Ohio	5.2
Indiana	5.1
Kentucky	5.1
Virginia	4.9
Maine	4.7
Delaware	4.6
Massachusetts	4.6
Wisconsin	4.6
Kansas	4.4
Colorado	4.3
Oklahoma	4.3
Texas	4.3
Hawaii	4.1
Wyoming	4.1
Idaho	3.9
Montana	3.9
Iowa	3.8
Minnesota	3.8
New Hampshire	3.8
South Dakota	3.8
Vermont	3.6
Utah	3.5
North Dakota	3.1
Nebraska	2.6

South Carolina Ranked 4th Highest of 51 in May

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), nine states and the District of Columbia experienced decreases in their unemployment rates, 25 states had increases, and 16 states remained unchanged. In May, South Carolina's ranking tied for fourth highest out of 51.

The most significant over-the-month acceleration in employment occurred in New Hampshire and Rhode Island at 0.7 percent, followed by Michigan and Nevada at 0.6 percent. The largest reduction in employment was in North Dakota at -1.1 percent, followed by Vermont at -0.7 percent, and Wyoming at -0.6 percent.

Over the year, nonfarm employment increased in 49 states and the District of Columbia, and decreased in West Virginia (-2.1 percent). The largest over-the-year uptrend occurred in Utah at 3.9 percent and Washington at 3.6 percent.

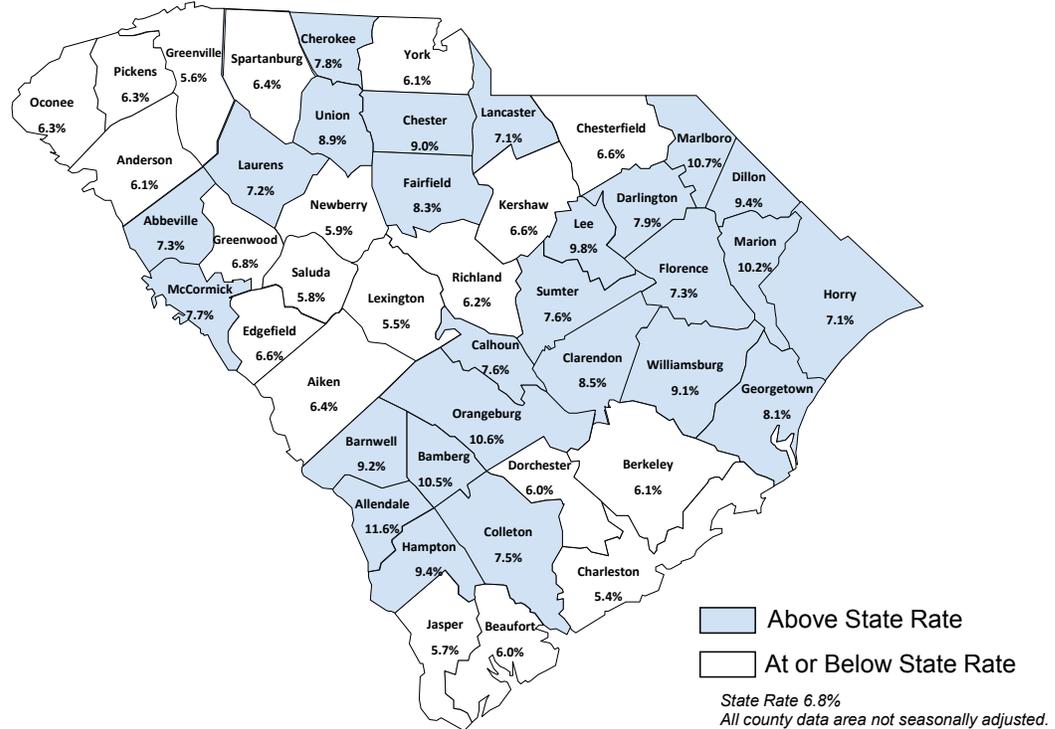
May Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates across the state were up over the month. Unemployment rates in 44 counties increased; two counties experienced slight decreases. Rates ranged from 11.6 percent in Allendale County to 5.4 percent in Lexington and Charleston counties.

Over the year, Greenville County continues to set the pace for people finding work with an estimated 5,000 people obtaining employment. Charleston (4,700), York (3,500), and Spartanburg (3,000) counties have seen vigorous growth as well. Sumter County remains the sole county with less people working (-400).

Looking forward in the near term, seasonal hiring in the coastal areas will peak in July. In mid-August, schools will begin to ramp up for the fall term across the state.

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Allendale	11.6%	Charleston	5.4%
Marlboro	10.7%	Lexington	5.5%
Orangeburg	10.6%	Greenville	5.6%
Bamberg	10.5%	Jasper	5.7%
Marion	10.2%	Saluda	5.8%



Employment Changes by County March 2015 through May 2015

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	May 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr '15 - May '15	Mar '15 - Apr '15
Abbeville	10,021	10,047	9,914	-26	133
Aiken	69,880	70,706	69,535	-826	1,171
Allendale	2,642	2,610	2,604	32	6
Anderson	83,256	83,366	82,290	-110	1,076
Bamberg	5,107	5,072	5,040	35	32
Barnwell	8,206	8,213	8,127	-7	86
Beaufort	67,106	66,045	65,785	1,061	260
Berkeley	87,244	86,961	85,616	283	1,345
Calhoun	6,524	6,469	6,463	55	6
Charleston	186,377	185,800	182,711	577	3,089
Cherokee	22,328	22,364	22,149	-36	215
Chester	12,780	12,665	12,592	115	73
Chesterfield	20,393	20,310	20,150	83	160
Clarendon	12,204	12,163	12,087	41	76
Colleton	16,124	16,096	15,881	28	215
Darlington	27,575	27,461	27,558	114	-97
Dillon	11,694	11,606	11,559	88	47
Dorchester	67,627	67,394	66,351	233	1,043
Edgefield	10,083	10,158	10,007	-75	151
Fairfield	9,372	9,307	9,295	65	12
Florence	60,165	60,112	60,145	53	-33
Georgetown	24,084	23,961	23,569	123	392
Greenville	226,290	226,669	223,708	-379	2,961
Greenwood	30,281	30,304	29,966	-23	338
Hampton	7,959	7,845	7,828	114	17
Horry	129,536	127,898	122,443	1,638	5,455
Jasper	11,102	10,940	10,851	162	89
Kershaw	26,782	26,603	26,565	179	38
Lancaster	33,123	32,859	32,630	264	229
Laurens	28,566	28,576	28,211	-10	365
Lee	5,979	5,944	5,936	35	8
Lexington	134,650	133,925	133,614	725	311
McCormick	3,370	3,384	3,334	-14	50
Marion	11,825	11,767	11,617	58	150
Marlboro	9,136	9,128	9,037	8	91
Newberry	17,848	17,693	17,632	155	61
Oconee	33,172	33,158	32,798	14	360
Orangeburg	34,799	34,713	34,398	86	315
Pickens	52,872	52,973	52,249	-101	724
Richland	184,327	183,584	183,144	743	440
Saluda	8,340	8,182	8,225	158	-43
Spartanburg	129,647	129,647	129,059	0	588
Sumter	40,755	41,096	41,003	-341	93
Union	10,788	10,789	10,736	-1	53
Williamsburg	12,021	11,983	11,905	38	78
York	117,310	116,515	115,597	795	918

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for May - Seasonally Adjusted

In May 2015, seasonally adjusted total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by -4,900 over the month to 1,991,900 from its record level in April. The decrease in employment was primarily due to losses in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, which posted the largest decrease in employment at -3,200.

During May, decreases occurred in Construction (-1,800) and Financial Activities (-1,200). Additional losses were seen in Professional and Business Services (-800); and Leisure and Hospitality and Government (-200), respectively. Industries reporting increases were recorded in Manufacturing (+800); Education and Health Services (+800); Other Services (+600); and Information (+300).

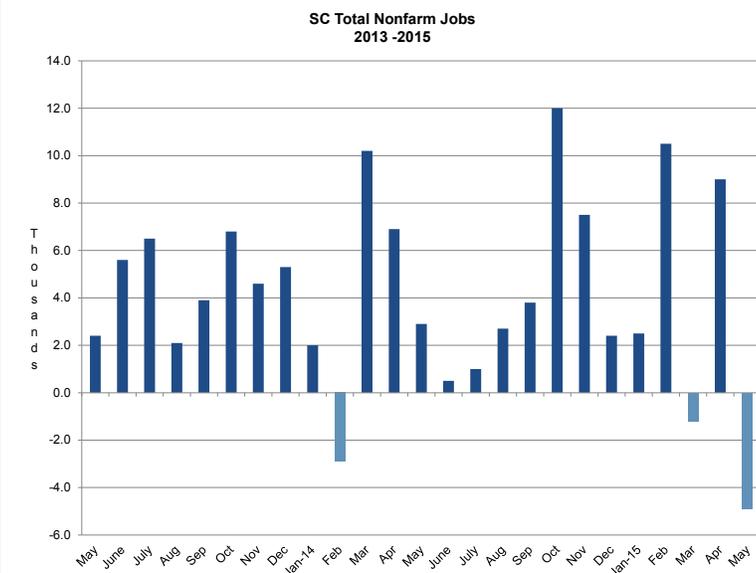
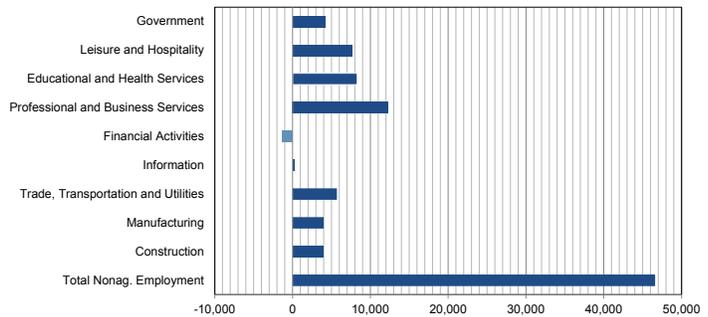
Over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was at 46,600 with Professional and Business Services (+12,300); Education and Health Services (+8,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+7,600); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+5,700) reporting the largest gains. Additional gains were also seen in Government (+4,200); Manufacturing (+4,000); Construction (+3,900); and Other Services (+1,800). Modest gains were seen in Information (+200). The only sector that saw a decrease was reported in Financial Activities (-1,300).

Every Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) saw seasonally adjusted payroll employment over-the-month decreases. The largest decrease was reported in Columbia (-1,400); followed by Florence (-700); Sumter (-300); and Charleston (-100).

Three of the four MSAs seasonally adjusted total nonfarm payroll employment saw an increase over-the-year. The largest gain was in Charleston (+10,300); followed by employment increases in Columbia (+5,100); and Florence (+700). The only MSA that saw employment fall was in Sumter (-600).

As a result of the new MSAs 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 Statistics will incorporate the updates to area definitions based

**South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
May 2014 - May 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.

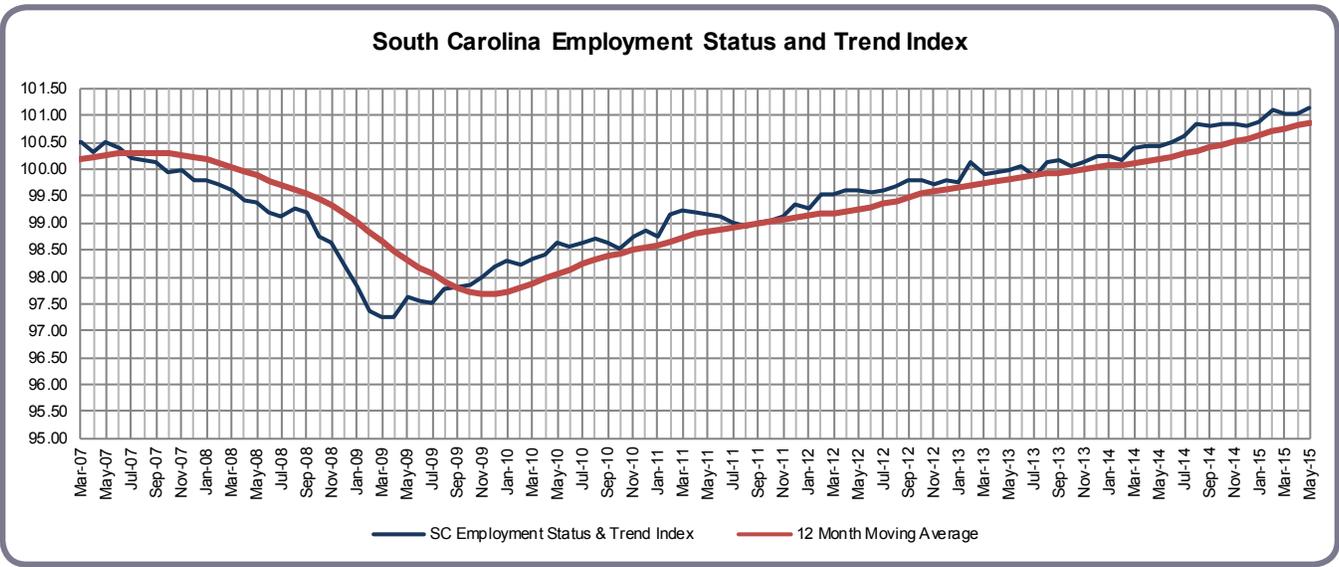
To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Set New Record

After dropping 0.03 percent in April, South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) jumped 0.11 percent this month, ending May at a new record high. Leading SCESTI up for the month was a 3.82 percent rise of the Conference Board’s SC Help Wanted Online Ads, coupled with an almost 1.2 percent surge of the Conference Board’s US Consumer Confidence Index. The SC Manufacture Average Weekly Hours worked and the Conference Board’s US Consumer Confidence Index were also higher for the month, gaining 0.71 and 0.39 percent, respectively. The only index component that failed to improve in May was the SC Unemployment Initial Claims, which was 0.55 percent higher.

Compared to May of 2014, SCESTI was 0.71 percent higher. All the index components managed advancements. The Conference Board’s US Consumer Confidence Index was 16.06 percent higher than May 2014. The Conference Board’s SC Help Wanted Online Ads climbed 12.98 percent and the Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims decreased 12.31 percent. The Conference Board’s US Employment Trend Index and the Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours were 5.16 percent and 3.9 percent higher respectively, than May 2014.

After small declines in March and April, SCESTI came back strongly, setting new all-time record in May. Standing at 101.13, SCESTI has set the stage for a steady improving employment situation for the Palmetto state in the next three to six months.



SCOIS - The Mission and Purpose

Our mission is to provide accurate and up-to-date educational and career information to S.C. schools and other sites through the use of South Carolina's own Career Information Delivery System (SCOIS). The SCOIS Career System will assist educators with incorporating integrative learning strategies that address state curriculum standards in conjunction with current and practical educational and career information. It will further allow teachers to develop efficient long range academic achievement plans for students.

SCOIS (S.C. Occupational Information System) is South Carolina's Official Career Resource Network. As a State Program, SCOIS is authorized by both Federal and State Law and is mandated to provide a vast array of Career Development products and services including the State's Computerized Career Information System.

SCOIS is strongly supported by school districts all across South Carolina and by the State Legislature. SCOIS has most recently been authorized by the State Legislature in the S.C. Education and Economic Development Act of 2005.

South Carolinians have been using SCOIS since 1977 to prepare for careers that will be in future demand. SCOIS is used in all grades K-12 as well as post secondary institutions and guides users all the way to state and national job openings. Students who use SCOIS can better prepare their Individualized Graduation Plans (IGPs).

SCOIS is an on-line system, and users need a password to enter. Users will have access to several Career Assessments, College Information, Occupational Information, College Major Information, Career Clusters, and School Subjects matched to careers. Additional information topics that are available in the system include Financial Aid Information, Private Trade Schools, Career Videos, Building and Posting Resumes, Career Electronic Portfolios, Salary and Outlook Information on Careers, Lesson Plans for Teachers, Career Guidance Tools for Parents, Accountability Reports for Administrators and much, much more.