

INSIGHTS



Volume 6: Issue 4 May 2016

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

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Economic Indicators

April - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	158,466,000	2,314,584
Employed	151,030,000	2,184,782
Unemployed	7,436,000	129,802
Unemp. Rate	4.7%	5.6%

Employment Growth Remains Positive

The number of South Carolinians working continued to climb in May, which pushed the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate down to 5.6 percent from 5.8 percent in April. The number of people working in South Carolina increased during the month by 2,988 to a record level of 2,184,782 people.

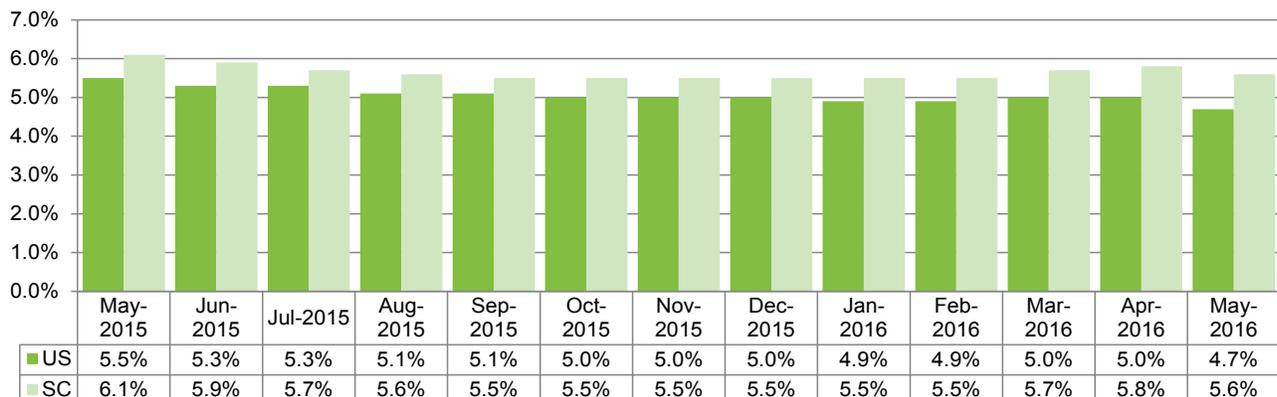
Also driving the rate lower was a decrease in the labor force. The number of unemployed individuals dropped by 4,493 over the month to 129,802. The labor force declined in May by 1,505 to 2,314,584 people.

Since May 2015, the number of people working increased by 71,401, and unemployment fell by 7,243 individuals. The labor force has grown by 64,158 people since a year ago.

Nationally, May's unemployment rate fell from 5.0 percent to 4.7 percent as many people left the labor force.



South Carolina vs US Unemployment Rate
May 2015 - May 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 12th Highest of 50 States in May

Unemployment rates were higher in May in five states, lower in four states and the District of Columbia (DC) and stable in 41 states.

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, two states had increases and 32 states had no significant change. In total, 16 states had unemployment rates lower than the National rate of 4.7 percent, 15 states and the District of Columbia had higher rates and 19 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation. South Dakota and New Hampshire had the lowest jobless rates in May of 2.5 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively. Alaska had the highest unemployment rate of 6.7 percent.

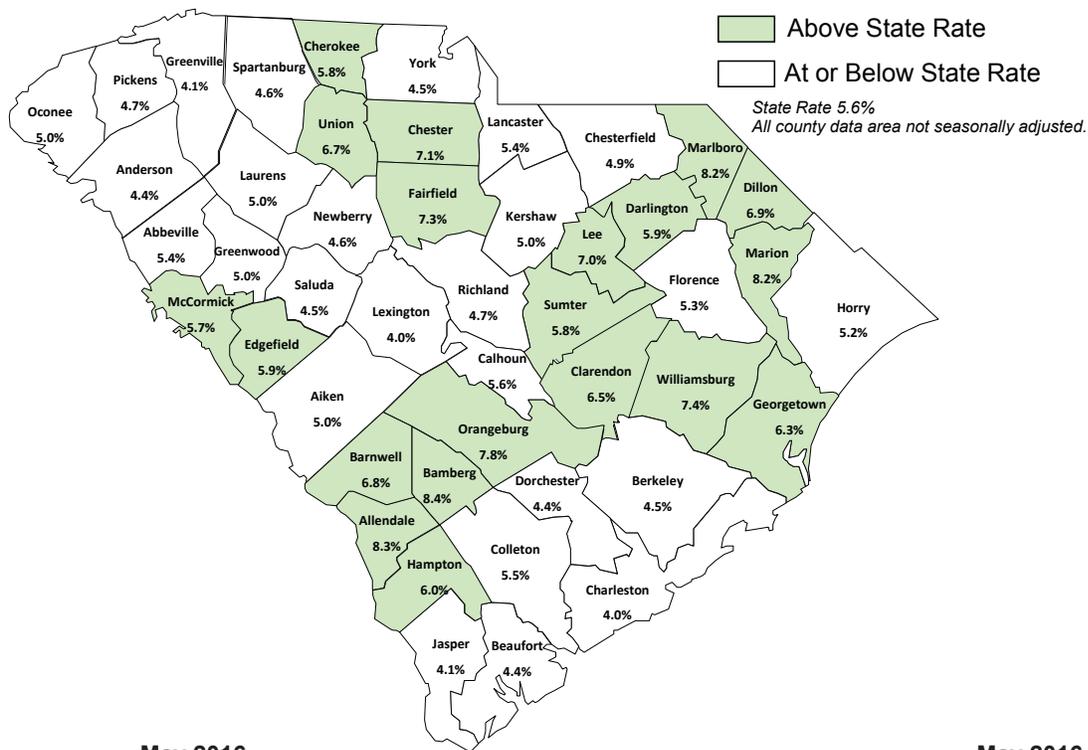
In May, South Carolina ranked 12th highest in the Nation.

May Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates decreased across the state in 43 of 46 counties during May. Rates ranged from 8.4 percent in Bamberg County to 4 percent in Charleston and Lexington counties. Over the past year rates have declined in all 46 counties.

From April to May 2016, employment gains were noted in 29 counties. Horry County saw the largest increase in people working (+2,154) as the coastal areas welcomed spring visitors. Beaufort (+891) and Charleston (+1,121) counties also marked strong employment increases.

Over the year, all counties recorded growth with Greenville (+5,851), Richland (+4,786), Charleston (+4,733) and Lexington (+3,882) continuing to lead the state's employment expansion.



Alaska	6.7
Illinois	6.4
Louisiana	6.3
New Mexico	6.2
West Virginia	6.2
Alabama	6.1
District Of Columbia	6.1
Nevada	6.1
Mississippi	5.8
Washington	5.8
Connecticut	5.7
Arizona	5.6
South Carolina	5.6
Wyoming	5.6
Pennsylvania	5.5
Rhode Island	5.4
Georgia	5.3
California	5.2
Kentucky	5.1
North Carolina	5.1
Ohio	5.1
Indiana	5.0
New Jersey	4.9
Florida	4.7
Michigan	4.7
New York	4.7
Oklahoma	4.7
United States	4.7
Maryland	4.5
Oregon	4.5
Texas	4.4
Missouri	4.3
Massachusetts	4.2
Montana	4.2
Wisconsin	4.2
Delaware	4.1
Tennessee	4.1
Iowa	3.9
Arkansas	3.8
Minnesota	3.8
Utah	3.8
Virginia	3.8
Idaho	3.7
Kansas	3.7
Maine	3.5
Colorado	3.4
Hawaii	3.2
North Dakota	3.2
Vermont	3.1
Nebraska	3.0
New Hampshire	2.7
South Dakota	2.5

May 2016

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Bamberg	8.4%	Charleston	4.0%
Allendale	8.3%	Lexington	4.0%
Marion	8.2%	Greenville	4.1%
Marlboro	8.2%	Jasper	4.1%
Orangeburg	7.8%	Anderson	4.4%

May 2016

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earning	\$1,060.39	\$813.85
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.8	42.3
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$25.99	\$19.24

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for May - Seasonally Adjusted

In May 2016, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 3,800 over the month, to reach a record high level of 2,043,700.

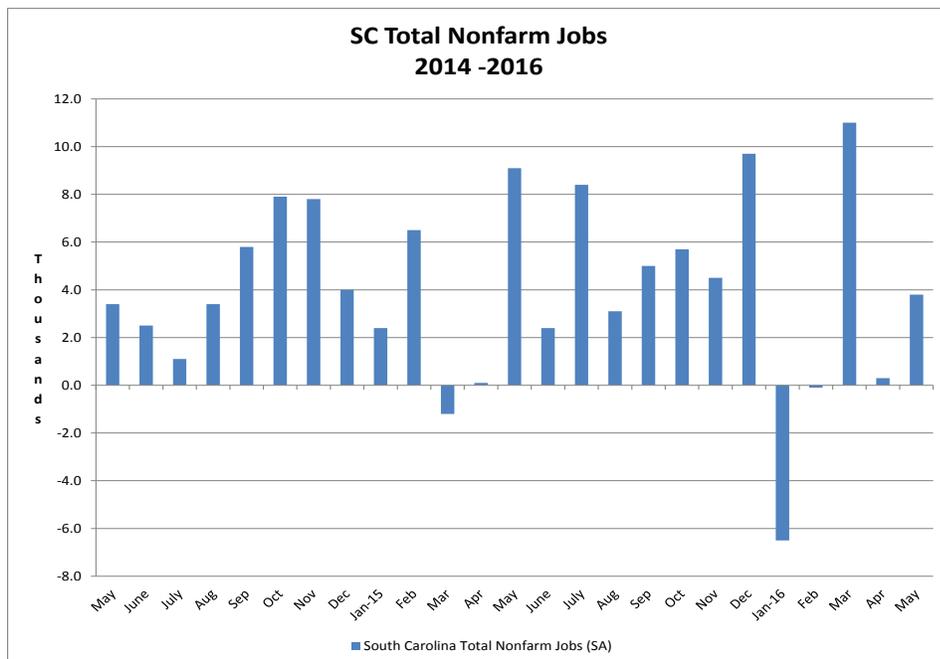
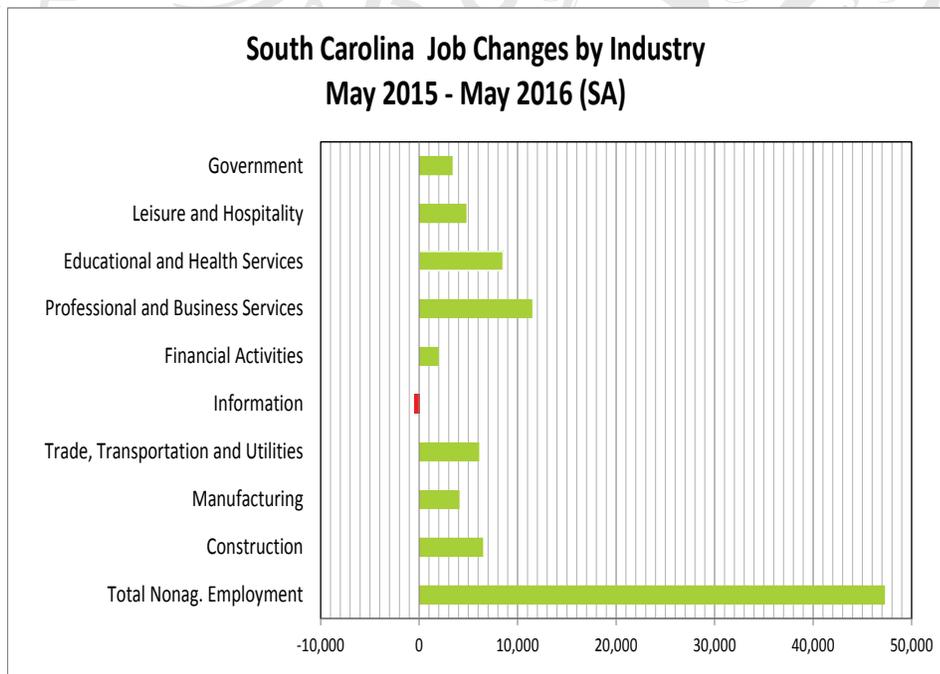
The increase in employment was primarily due to gains in Educational and Health Services (+1,800) and Construction (+1,200).

Additional growth was also recorded in Government (+700); Professional and Business Services (+500); Leisure and Hospitality (+500); and Manufacturing (+300). Industries reporting declines were Information (-500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-300); Other Services (-300); and Financial Activities (-100).

Over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was up 47,300 with large upturns in Professional and Business Services (+11,500); Education and Health Services (+8,500); Construction (+6,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,100); Leisure and Hospitality (+4,800); Manufacturing (+4,100); Government (+3,400); Financial Activities (+2,000); and Other Services (+700). Information (-500) saw a slight dip in payroll.

The Metropolitan Statistical Areas seeing downturns in seasonally adjusted total nonfarm payroll employment over-the-month were Sumter (-400); Columbia (-100); and Florence (-100). Charleston (+2,400) marked strong job entries.

Every Metropolitan Statistical Area saw seasonally adjusted payroll employment growth compared to last year. Most noticeable growth was in Charleston (+8,400) and Columbia (+8,400); followed by Florence (+1,300) and Sumter (+500).



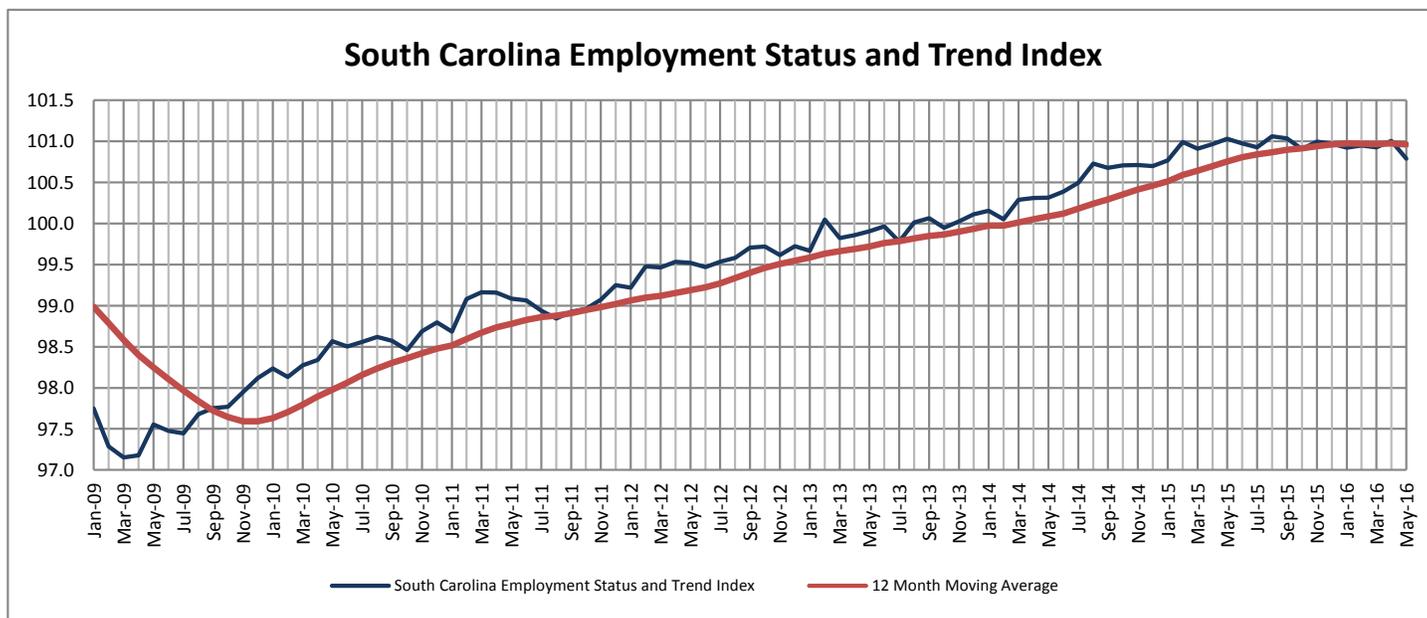
Economic Indicators (May 2016)		
Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)		
	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	0.71%	2.53%
Columbia MSA	-0.03%	2.19%
Florence MSA	-0.11%	1.51%
Sumter MSA	-1.02%	1.29%

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

Employment Changes by County
March 2016 through May 2016

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	May 2016	Apr 2016	Mar 2016	Apr '16 - May '16	Mar '16 - Apr '16
Abbeville	9,942	10,009	9,957	-67	52
Aiken	70,287	71,228	70,211	-941	1,017
Allendale	2,546	2,515	2,463	31	52
Anderson	86,091	85,833	85,786	258	47
Bamberg	5,034	5,017	4,945	17	72
Barnwell	7,889	7,926	7,844	-37	82
Beaufort	70,829	69,938	69,020	891	918
Berkeley	90,511	90,099	90,111	412	-12
Calhoun	6,684	6,640	6,614	44	26
Charleston	193,815	192,694	192,209	1,121	485
Cherokee	22,295	22,487	22,439	-192	48
Chester	12,858	12,857	12,806	1	51
Chesterfield	20,667	20,644	20,438	23	206
Clarendon	12,457	12,439	12,270	18	169
Colleton	16,261	16,244	16,084	17	160
Darlington	28,542	28,383	28,430	159	-47
Dillon	11,939	11,870	11,715	69	155
Dorchester	70,164	69,813	69,777	351	36
Edgefield	10,219	10,281	10,067	-62	214
Fairfield	9,641	9,601	9,593	40	8
Florence	62,672	62,536	62,763	136	-227
Georgetown	24,392	24,299	23,908	93	391
Greenville	235,395	234,813	234,814	582	-1
Greenwood	30,017	30,180	30,017	-163	163
Hampton	7,907	7,803	7,654	104	149
Horry	134,521	132,367	128,352	2,154	4,015
Jasper	11,738	11,552	11,318	186	234
Kershaw	27,987	27,885	27,870	102	15
Lancaster	34,705	34,719	34,574	-14	145
Laurens	29,392	29,250	29,170	142	80
Lee	6,096	6,074	6,023	22	51
Lexington	141,203	140,929	141,051	274	-122
McCormick	3,298	3,322	3,290	-24	32
Marion	12,032	11,987	11,848	45	139
Marlboro	8,906	8,947	8,882	-41	65
Newberry	18,485	18,373	18,154	112	219
Oconee	33,531	33,599	33,365	-68	234
Orangeburg	33,987	34,034	33,721	-47	313
Pickens	54,302	54,155	54,115	147	40
Richland	191,074	191,235	192,020	-161	-785
Saluda	8,720	8,530	8,379	190	151
Spartanburg	134,495	135,282	135,642	-787	-360
Sumter	42,312	42,769	42,688	-457	81
Union	11,041	11,099	11,118	-58	-19
Williamsburg	12,073	12,077	11,980	-4	97
York	121,742	121,986	121,622	-244	364

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Declines



The S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) dropped 0.22 points in May from a revised April figure, ending May at 100.79. Several factors contributed to this month's downward movement of the SCESTI. Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance rose in May on a non-seasonally adjusted average of 298 claims per week. Average Manufacturing Weekly Hours were slightly lower, edging down 0.1 hours per week. The Conference Board's U.S. Employment Trend Index and its U.S. Consumer Confidence Index also were lower for the month, losing 1.7 and 2.1 percentage points, respectively. Finally, the Conference Board's Help Wanted Online data series declined to 60,200 available jobs online, falling 5.6 percent or 3,600 jobs.

Compared with 12 months ago, four of SCESTI's five components were lower, while one component—the U.S. Employment Trends Index—was higher. SCESTI was 0.24 percent lower than it was in May of 2015. The Conference Board's U.S. Consumer Confidence Index declined 2.1 percent. Initial claims for the Unemployment Insurance rose 3.4 percent. The S.C. Help Wanted Online job vacancies declined 12.9 percent. Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours was down 0.9 percent falling 0.4 hours per week from its value 12 months previous. Finally, the Conference Board's U.S. Employment Trends Index was 0.7 percent higher.

May's decline of the SCESTI is noteworthy, as the index has experienced a period of relative "flatness" since September, 2015. Further, this decline was caused by an across-the-board weakening of all SCESTI components. Revisions to each component for prior months are regular and can be large, thus the ultimate direction of the SCESTI cannot be accurately assessed until newer data is available. In the meantime, the index should be carefully watched in the coming months.

Jobs With Little or No Educational Requirements

Historically, South Carolina's economy has largely been based on manufacturing and agriculture. Today's economy is more diversified. Entrepreneurs seem to be the driving force sparking the growth spurt in South Carolina. According to the South Carolina Department of Commerce, 97 percent of all employers in South Carolina are small businesses, which is 48.4 percent of the labor force in the private sector. In this article, an exploration of jobs that do not require a degree will be discussed. No, your eyes did not deceive you. These jobs have little or no educational requirements or just a high school diploma. A brief description of duties and the average annual income in South Carolina for those jobs in 2015 are below.

Real Estate Broker: Operate a real estate office or work for a commercial real estate firm overseeing real estate transactions. Other duties usually include selling real estate or renting properties and arranging loans. Every state requires real estate brokers and agents to be licensed. Requirements vary by state, but all states require candidates to be at least 18 or 19 years old, have a high school diploma, complete a number of hours of real estate courses and pass a licensing exam. **Average Annual Income in SC:** \$70,760

Food Service Manager: Directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in preparing and serving food. Food service managers are responsible for managing the operations of a food service outlet such as a grocery store, restaurant or cafeteria. Educational requirements are a high school diploma or GED, on-the-job training or some college education may be preferred by employers. **Average Annual Income in SC:** \$44,410

Detectives and Investigators: Conduct investigations related to suspected violations of federal, state or local laws. Duties typically include collecting information, interviewing and arresting suspects, compiling reports, and testifying in court cases. Educational requirements are a high school diploma or equivalent (minimum) and 3-4 years of experience as a police officer. Associate's degree or bachelor's degree programs are available. **Average Annual Income in SC:** \$60,950

Supervisors of Landscaping Workers: Directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in landscaping or groundskeeping activities. Work may involve reviewing contracts to ascertain service, machine and workforce requirements; answering inquiries from potential customers regarding methods, material and price ranges; and preparing estimates according to labor, material and machine costs. There are no educational requirements, just on-the-job training. **Average Annual Income in SC:** \$43,980

Automobile Mechanic: Diagnose, adjust, repair or overhaul automotive vehicles. Depending on the employer, some only require a high school diploma and provide on-the-job training to mechanics, while others require the completion of a formal educational program that includes coursework and hands-on practice working with vehicles. Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification is commonly required after mechanics begin working. **Average Annual Income in SC:** \$36,250

These jobs are just a few that are often overlooked but readily available. As a nation, we are told to seek a degree in order to find a good-paying job. Frequently, a desk is often associated with success. However, sometimes it only takes tenacity to broaden our horizons.

Sources: The Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Study.com