

INSIGHTS

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SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

Economic Indicators

October 2015 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	157,028,000	2,255,471
Employed	149,120,000	2,128,894
Unemployed	7,908,000	126,577
Unemployed Rate	5.0%	5.6%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,035.41	\$777.61
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	41.1
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$25.44	\$18.92

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Sumter MSA	0.26%	0.26%
Columbia MSA	0.21%	2.81%
Charleston MSA	0.03%	2.13%
Florence MSA	-0.35%	0.71%

Employment to Population Ratio (SA)

	2015	2014
U.S. Population Ratio	59.3%	59.2%
S.C. Population Ratio	55.6%	54.6%

Labor Force Participation Rate (SA)

	Oct	Sep	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	62.4%	62.4%	0.0%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.0%	58.9%	0.1%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-Month CPI	0.2%
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Unemployment rate drops from 5.7 to 5.6 percent
- Employment sets another record high
- Twelve-month employment growth is the most since July 1983-84

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



Unemployment Rate Continues Descent, Employment Sets New Record

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 5.7 percent in September to 5.6 percent in October as more people entered the workforce, and significant hiring took place during the month.

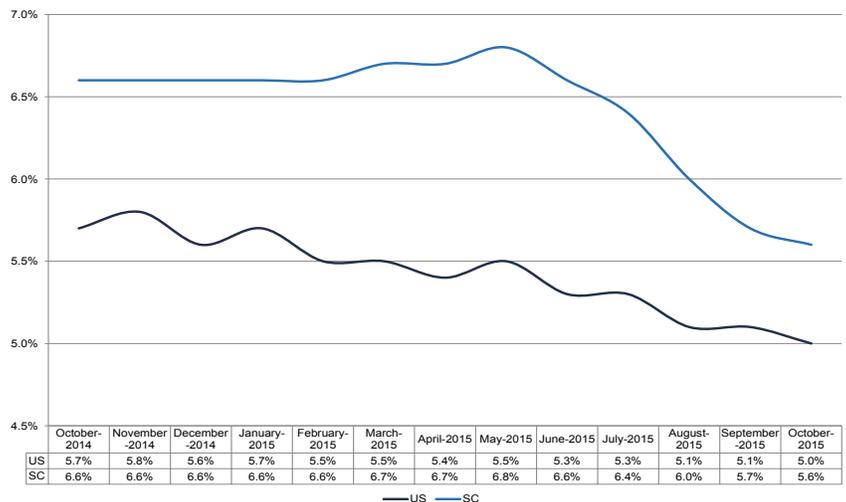
The number of employed jumped by 7,900 to approximately 2,128,900 people, setting a new record. The labor force (those employed and those unemployed actively seeking work) grew by about 5,500 to 2,255,475 people. During October, the number of unemployed decreased by about 2,400 to 128,575 people.

Since October 2014, nearly 66,150 people have found work, the largest 12-month gain since July 1983-84, a sign of significant economic progress in the state. Unemployment fell by about 19,150 people, while the labor force gained nearly 47,000 over the year.

Nationally, over the month, the October unemployment rate dropped from 5.1 percent to 5.0 percent.

As the holiday season approaches, continued progress of the economy in the Palmetto State is expected.

Unemployment Rates in South Carolina and The United States
October 2014 - October 2015



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](#).

Employment Changes by County August 2015 through October 2015

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Oct 2015	Sep 2015	Aug 2015	Sep '15 - Oct '15	Aug '15 - Sep '15
Abbeville	10,200	10,059	10,042	141	17
Aiken	69,873	69,829	70,251	44	-422
Allendale	2,702	2,704	2,717	-2	-13
Anderson	84,043	83,356	83,253	687	103
Bamberg	5,214	5,190	5,203	24	-13
Barnwell	8,321	8,265	8,286	56	-21
Beaufort	65,918	65,592	67,386	326	-1,794
Berkeley	86,706	86,641	87,086	65	-445
Calhoun	6,608	6,587	6,595	21	-8
Charleston	185,922	185,616	186,232	306	-616
Cherokee	22,679	22,416	22,400	263	16
Chester	12,863	12,769	12,903	94	-134
Chesterfield	20,742	20,600	20,620	142	-20
Clarendon	12,449	12,390	12,404	59	-14
Colleton	16,393	16,253	16,243	140	10
Darlington	27,444	27,613	27,545	-169	68
Dillon	11,898	11,880	11,904	18	-24
Dorchester	67,255	67,209	67,540	46	-331
Edgefield	10,136	10,164	10,219	-28	-55
Fairfield	9,471	9,432	9,447	39	-15
Florence	59,928	60,057	59,777	-129	280
Georgetown	24,343	24,302	24,501	41	-199
Greenville	228,353	226,411	226,131	1,942	280
Greenwood	30,773	30,420	30,424	353	-4
Hampton	8,031	8,033	8,130	-2	-97
Horry	125,999	128,914	133,764	-2,915	-4,850
Jasper	11,040	10,961	11,183	79	-222
Kershaw	27,061	26,941	26,980	120	-39
Lancaster	33,380	33,096	33,402	284	-306
Laurens	28,889	28,675	28,629	214	46
Lee	6,051	6,048	6,061	3	-13
Lexington	136,000	135,194	135,323	806	-129
McCormick	3,429	3,388	3,383	41	5
Marion	11,900	11,900	11,983	0	-83
Marlboro	9,301	9,201	9,210	100	-9
Newberry	18,175	18,133	18,184	42	-51
Oconee	33,738	33,408	33,403	330	5
Orangeburg	35,475	35,141	35,149	334	-8
Pickens	53,417	52,938	52,836	479	102
Richland	185,693	184,377	184,650	1,316	-273
Saluda	8,501	8,571	8,603	-70	-32
Spartanburg	131,390	130,649	130,186	741	463
Sumter	40,969	40,818	40,947	151	-129
Union	10,946	10,882	10,838	64	44
Williamsburg	12,198	12,130	12,141	68	-11
York	118,185	117,017	118,053	1,168	-1,036

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for October - Seasonally Adjusted

In October, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 6,600 over the month to reach the record level of 2,022,400. Professional and Business Services led the month-over-month figures with a 6,700 job gain.

During October, additional increases occurred in Education and Health Services (+2,700); Manufacturing (+600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+500); and Government (+100). Meanwhile, industries reporting decreases were Financial Activities (-1,400); Leisure and Hospitality (-1,100); Other Services (-800); Construction (-600); and Information (-100).

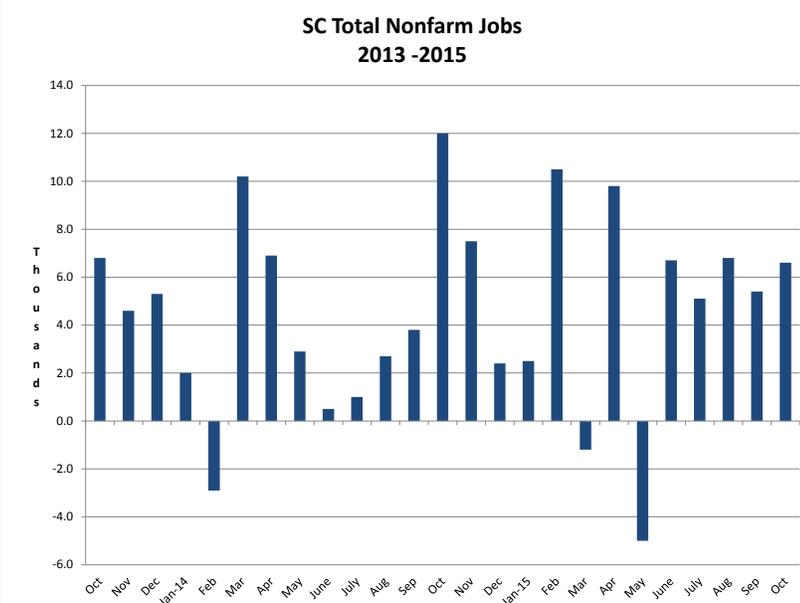
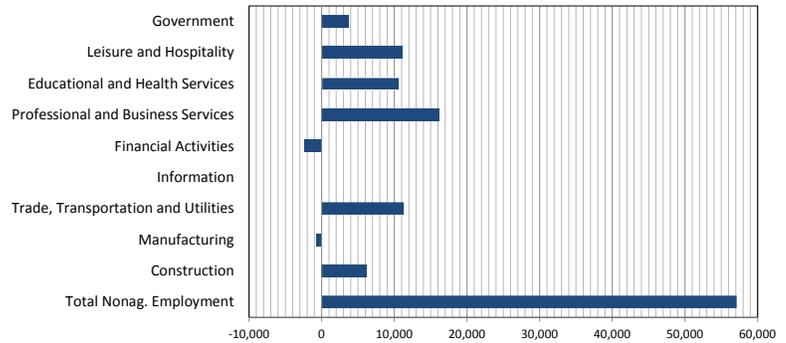
Year-over-year growth in nonfarm employment was 57,100 with the largest increase in Professional and Business Services (+16,200). Additional gains were seen in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+11,100); Education and Health Services (+10,700); Construction (+6,200); Government (+3,800); and Other Services (+1,200). Information remained the same. Industries reporting losses were Financial Activities (-2,400) and Manufacturing (-800).

Three of the four Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment saw upsurges over the month. Columbia had the largest increase with a gain of 800 with Charleston (+100) and Sumter (+100) following. Florence shed 300.

Every MSA saw seasonally adjusted, payroll employment growth over the year. The most prominent was reported in Columbia (+10,500), followed by Charleston (+6,900), Florence (+600), and Sumter (+100).

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 on

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



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, and the 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 April 2013.

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

www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

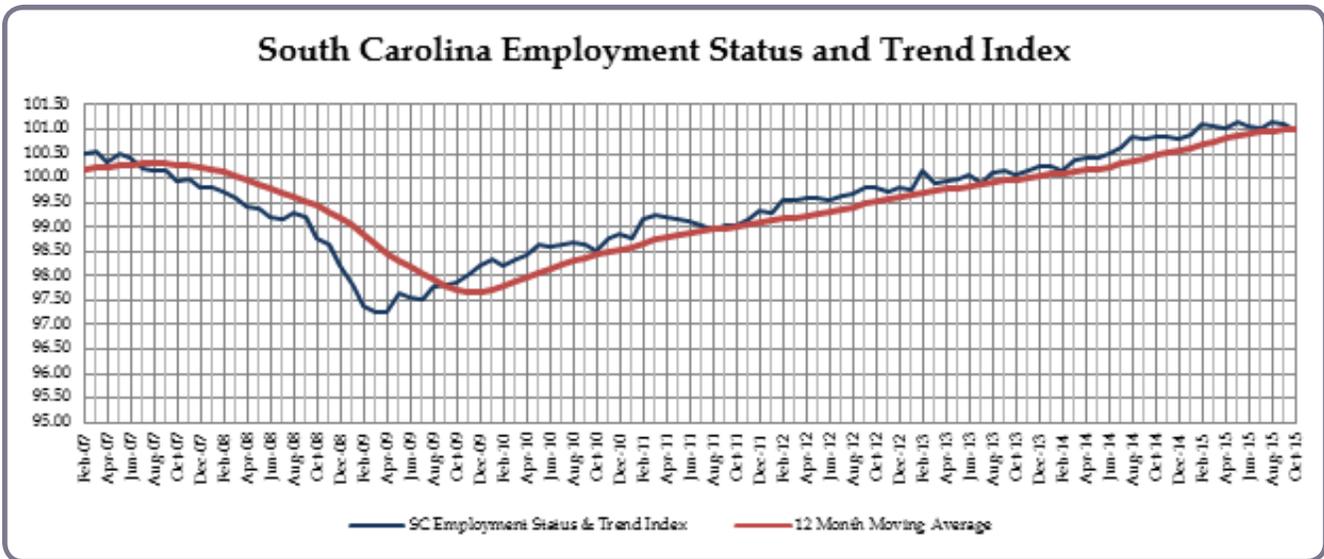
(Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Down Moderately

For the second month in a row, the South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) lost ground, dropping 0.13 percent of its value, and ending October at 100.98. While a more than 71 percent jump of the S.C. Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims was the major factor contributing to the decline of SCESTI this month, the Conference Board's U.S. Consumer Confidence Index and the S.C. Manufacturing Average Weekly Working Hours also retreated, dropping 4.87 percent and 2.38 percent, respectively. On the other hand, the Conference Board's S.C. Help Wanted Online® Ads and the Conference Board's U.S. Employment Trends Index kept the trend up, gaining 3.82 percent and 0.65 percent, respectively.

On a 12-month comparison, SCESTI, along with three of the five index components, managed improvements, while two components lagged. Contributing to SCESTI's 0.15 percent gain for this time period were a 5.43 percent climb of the Conference Board's S.C. Help Wanted Online® Ads, a 3.72 percent increase of the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index, and a 3.08 percent gain of the Conference Board's U.S. Employment Trends Index. Two index components failed to do well for this time period. The S.C. Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims were more than 46 percent higher, while the S.C. Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours were about 1 percent lower than a year ago.

October marked the month that SCESTI suffered the second consecutive monthly loss in its value. Also it marked the month that SCESTI fell below its 12-month moving average, which had not happened for 49 months in a row (since August 2011). However, these effects should not be overestimated since it is largely caused by the unusual heavy flood that occurred in South Carolina at the beginning of the month. With the upward trend that SCESTI has shown for the past few years, it is expected to rebound strongly in the next few months.



Administrative Uses of Local Area Unemployment Statistics Data

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (LAUS) data is used for many purposes in addition to providing labor force information about numerous areas across the nation. Several federal agencies use the data in the distribution of resources for various programs for areas across the country. These agencies include:

Department of Labor	Department of Agriculture	Department of Commerce
Department of Defense	Department of Health and Human Services	Department of Homeland Security
Department of the Treasury	Appalachian Regional Commission	Small Business Administration

LAUS data is used as part of the criteria in the allocation of nearly \$83.5 billion by various agencies for programs aimed at a variety of goals and objectives. Some of these programs are described below.

The Department of Labor uses LAUS data to allocate funding for Adult Employment and Training Activities as well as Youth Activities associated with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Some additional programs include: Dislocated Worker Employment, Training activities, Federal-State Extended Unemployment Benefits, Employment Service Grants to States, and Jobs for Veterans Act.

The Department of Agriculture uses LAUS data to allocate funding for some aspects of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

The Department of Commerce is responsible for the Public Works and Economic Development Program and the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. LAUS data is used for eligibility determinations for assistance.

The Department of Defense logistics group administers the Procurement Technical Assistance program. It uses LAUS data in making some purchasing decisions that create opportunities for small businesses while ensuring each tax dollar is spent responsibly.

The Department of Health and Human Services administers federal grant programs that foster family economic security and stability, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and the Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF) program. Additionally, Health and Human Services distributes funds for grants associated with Community Mental Health Services and treatment of substance abuse. LAUS data is used in the determination for distribution of funds for these programs.

The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) division uses LAUS data for fund allocations for the Emergency Food and Shelter program and the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation program. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services division allocates funding for the Employment Creation Visa program.

The Department of the Treasury uses LAUS data for funding allocations to expand the capacity of financial institutions to provide credit, capital, and financial services to underserved populations and communities in the United States.

The Appalachian Regional Commission uses LAUS data in distribution of funding to support its economic development objectives across 13 states in the region.

The Small Business Administration uses LAUS data for funding distribution for historically underutilized business zones.

So, in addition to being a key indicator of local economic conditions, Local Area Unemployment Statistics data is used as a measurement tool to assist in targeting resources to help improve conditions in economically suppressed areas.