

INSIGHTS

4.9%

September
Unemployment Rate

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SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

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Economic Indicators

September - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	159,907,000	2,297,920
Employed	151,968,000	2,185,902
Unemployed	7,939,000	112,018
Unemp. Rate	5.0%	4.9%

Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.9 Percent

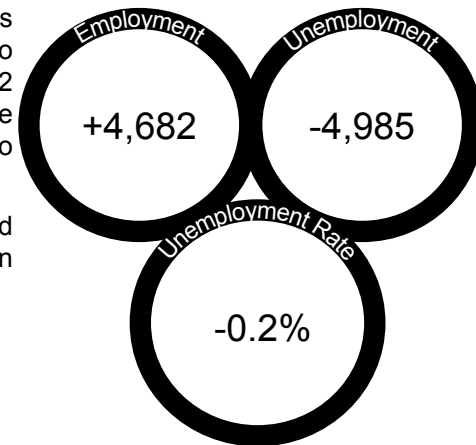
The number of South Carolinians working in September rose to an all-time high, while the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped below 5.0 percent for the first time since April 2001.

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.9 percent in September from 5.1 percent in August. The state's unemployment rate also dropped below the national rate for the first time since April 2014.

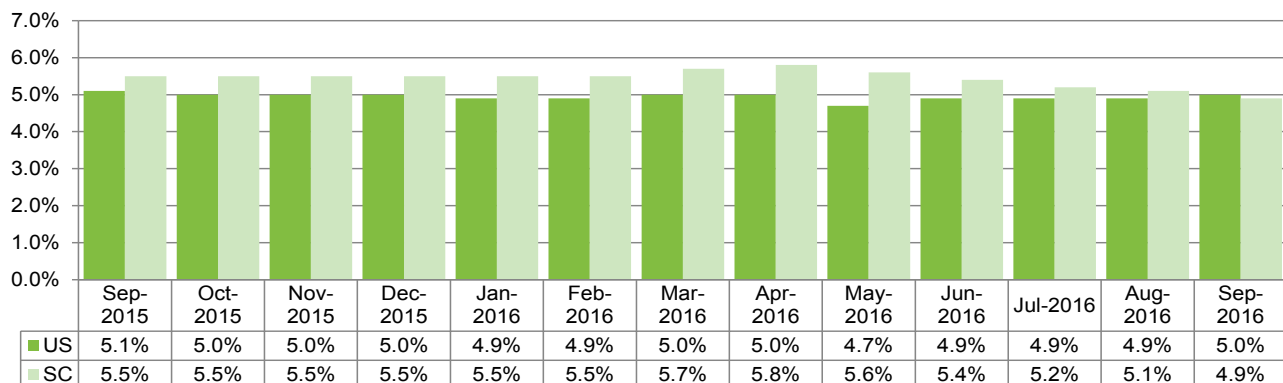
Employment increased in September by 4,682 to 2,185,902, a new record high, and the unemployed level declined by 4,985 to 112,018. The result was a decrease in the labor force from August to September of 303 people. This is the fifth consecutive month the unemployment rate has decreased.

Since September 2015, employment has increased by 55,693 from 2,130,209 to 2,185,902, and unemployment fell 13,012 from 125,030 to 112,018. The labor force grew by 42,681 people from 2,255,239 to 2,297,920.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased from 4.9 in August to 5.0 percent in September.



South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
September 2015 - September 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 24th Highest of 50 States in September

Unemployment rates were higher in one state during September, lower in seven states and stable in 42 states and the District of Columbia (DC).

Six states had unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, four states had increases and 40 states and the District of Columbia had no change.

South Dakota and New Hampshire had the lowest jobless rates in September at 2.9 percent for each. Alaska had the highest unemployment rate of 6.9 percent. In total, 20 states had unemployment rates lower than the National rate of 5.0 percent, nine states and the District of Columbia had higher rates and 21 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.

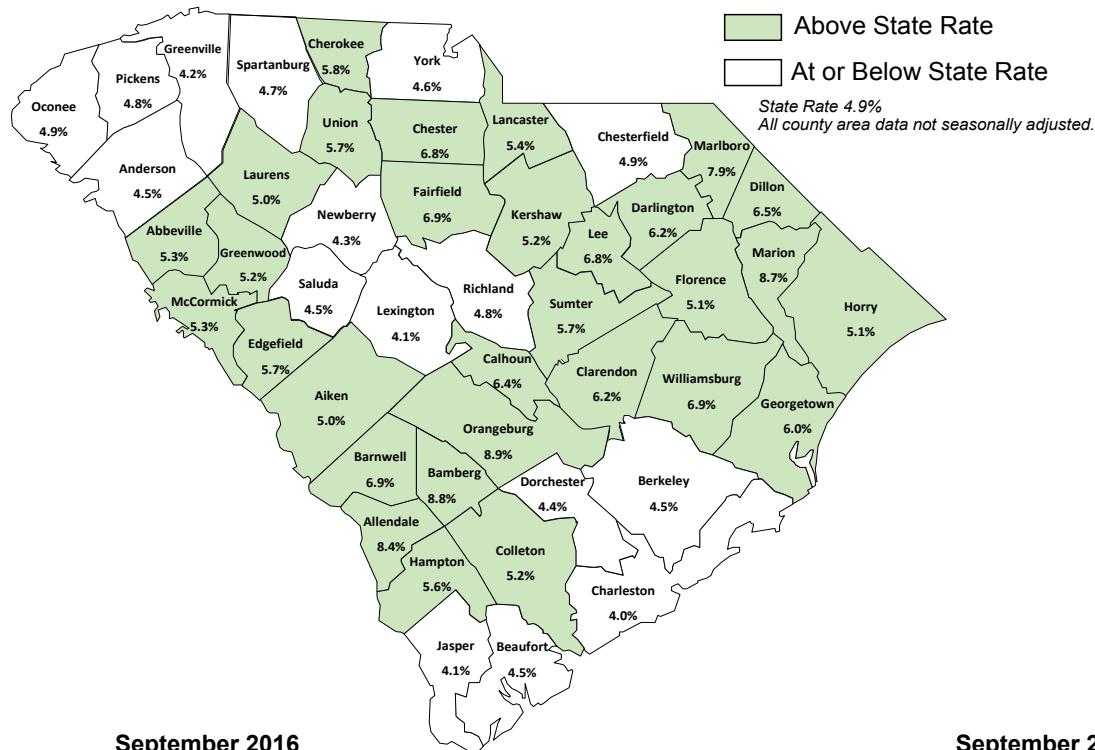
In September, South Carolina ranked 24th highest in the Nation.

September Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates were lower across the state during September with the exception of Marion County. Rates ranged from 8.9 percent in Orangeburg County to 4.0 percent in Charleston County. Employment in coastal counties of Horry, Beaufort, and Georgetown fell due to the summer tourist season winding down.

Since January employment levels in South Carolina counties, as a whole, grew by nearly 51,715 people.

Looking forward in the near term, holiday seasonal hiring will be ramping up. Additionally, home repair and improvement activity in the Southern Midlands, Lowcountry, and Pee Dee areas is anticipated to be up due to the influences of Hurricane Matthew.



Alaska	6.9
New Mexico	6.7
Louisiana	6.4
District of Columbia	6.1
Mississippi	6.0
Nevada	5.8
West Virginia	5.8
Pennsylvania	5.7
Rhode Island	5.6
Washington	5.6
Arizona	5.5
California	5.5
Illinois	5.5
Oregon	5.5
Alabama	5.4
Connecticut	5.4
New Jersey	5.3
Wyoming	5.3
Missouri	5.2
Oklahoma	5.2
Georgia	5.1
Kentucky	5.0
New York	5.0
United States	5.0
South Carolina	4.9
Ohio	4.8
Texas	4.8
Florida	4.7
North Carolina	4.7
Michigan	4.6
Tennessee	4.6
Indiana	4.5
Kansas	4.4
Delaware	4.3
Montana	4.3
Iowa	4.2
Maryland	4.2
Maine	4.1
Wisconsin	4.1
Arkansas	4.0
Minnesota	4.0
Virginia	4.0
Idaho	3.8
Colorado	3.6
Massachusetts	3.6
Utah	3.4
Hawaii	3.3
Vermont	3.3
Nebraska	3.2
North Dakota	3.0
New Hampshire	2.9
South Dakota	2.9

September 2016

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Orangeburg	8.9%	Charleston	4.0%
Bamberg	8.8%	Jasper	4.1%
Marion	8.7%	Lexington	4.1%
Allendale	8.4%	Greenville	4.2%
Marlboro	7.9%	Newberry	4.3%

September 2016

Economic Indicators		
Average Hours & Earnings		
Manufacturing	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Avg. Weekly Earning	\$1,064.71	\$827.90
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	42.5
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$26.16	\$19.48

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for September - Seasonally Adjusted

In September 2016, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased 6,600 over the month to a record high level of 2,069,700.

The increase in employment was primary due to gains in Professional and Business Services (+3,300); Education and Health Services (+2,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,600); and Manufacturing (+1,500).

Additional growth was also reported in Other Services (+900); Leisure and Hospitality (+800); and Information (+100). Notable losses occurred in Government (-2,800) and Construction (-1,000); whereas, Financial Activities (-400) reporting a slight decline.

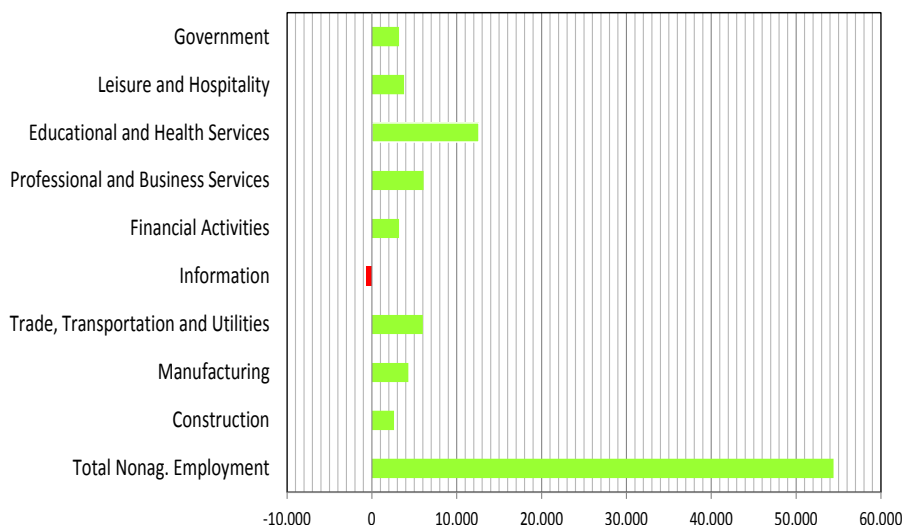
Over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was up 54,400 with growth in the Professional and Business Services (+16,800); Education and Health Services (+13,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,000); Manufacturing (+4,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,800); Financial Activities (+3,200); Government (+3,200); Construction (+2,600); and Other Services (+1,300). Information (-600) saw a dip in payroll.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas' seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment for over-the-month marked strong job entries in Charleston (+1,800) and Columbia (+1,300). However, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in Florence (-500) and Sumter (-200).

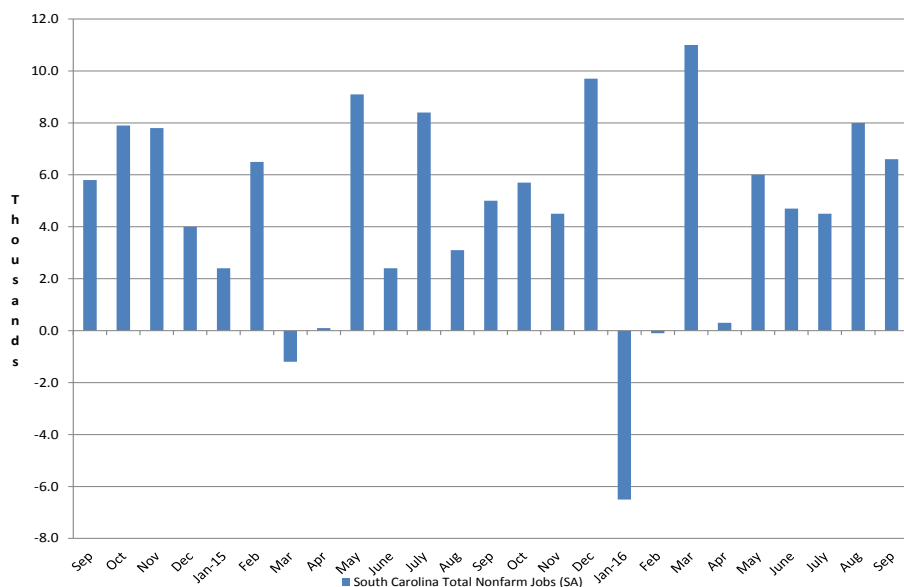
Every Metropolitan Statistical Area saw seasonally adjusted, payroll employment growth compared to over-the-year. Most noticeable growth was in Charleston (+11,800) and Columbia (+8,400).

Employment increases continued in Florence (+700) and Sumter (+500).

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



**S.C. Total Nonfarm Jobs
2014 -2016**



Economic Indicators (September 2016)

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	0.52%	3.52%
Columbia MSA	0.33%	2.17%
Florence MSA	-0.57%	0.81%
Sumter MSA	-0.51%	1.28%

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

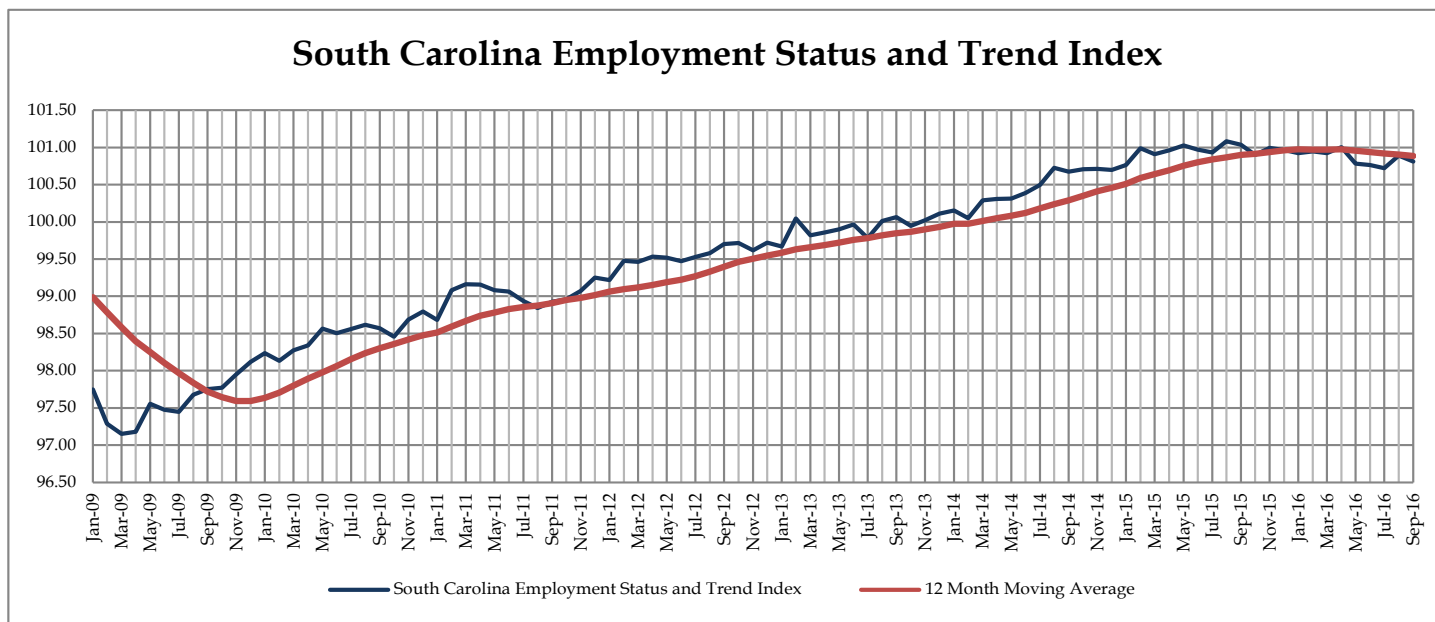
www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

(Employment and Wage Data section)

Employment Changes by County
July 2016 through September 2016

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Sep 2016	Aug 2016	Jul 2016	Aug '16 - Sep '16	Jul '16 - Aug '16
Abbeville	10,015	9,881	9,956	134	-75
Aiken	69,911	70,769	71,282	-858	-513
Allendale	2,547	2,602	2,619	-55	-17
Anderson	85,432	85,276	85,830	156	-554
Bamberg	5,057	5,094	5,136	-37	-42
Barnwell	7,920	7,930	7,995	-10	-65
Beaufort	70,218	71,698	72,898	-1,480	-1,200
Berkeley	91,174	91,064	92,269	110	-1,205
Calhoun	6,673	6,707	6,730	-34	-23
Charleston	195,050	194,839	196,981	211	-2,142
Cherokee	22,483	22,203	22,347	280	-144
Chester	12,787	12,909	12,870	-122	39
Chesterfield	20,681	20,734	20,804	-53	-70
Clarendon	12,451	12,522	12,611	-71	-89
Colleton	16,352	16,294	16,402	58	-108
Darlington	28,109	28,426	28,464	-317	-38
Dillon	11,939	12,070	12,148	-131	-78
Dorchester	70,658	70,609	71,517	49	-908
Edgefield	10,135	10,351	10,398	-216	-47
Fairfield	9,635	9,655	9,700	-20	-45
Florence	61,808	62,040	62,074	-232	-34
Georgetown	24,389	24,578	24,820	-189	-242
Greenville	233,649	233,031	234,592	618	-1,561
Greenwood	30,219	29,937	30,204	282	-267
Hampton	7,883	8,067	8,149	-184	-82
Horry	132,150	136,948	139,870	-4,798	-2,922
Jasper	11,617	11,852	11,970	-235	-118
Kershaw	27,976	28,011	28,148	-35	-137
Lancaster	34,516	34,777	34,645	-261	132
Laurens	29,145	29,160	29,318	-15	-158
Lee	6,076	6,134	6,175	-58	-41
Lexington	141,252	140,993	141,702	259	-709
McCormick	3,315	3,289	3,310	26	-21
Marion	11,993	12,097	12,208	-104	-111
Marlboro	8,977	8,920	9,005	57	-85
Newberry	18,517	18,701	18,826	-184	-125
Oconee	33,654	33,491	33,745	163	-254
Orangeburg	34,187	34,074	34,318	113	-244
Pickens	53,894	53,728	54,048	166	-320
Richland	191,398	190,362	191,599	1,036	-1,237
Saluda	8,644	8,910	8,915	-266	-5
Spartanburg	134,797	133,785	133,374	1,012	411
Sumter	41,779	41,756	42,303	23	-547
Union	11,061	10,980	10,940	81	40
Williamsburg	12,107	12,115	12,204	-8	-89
York	121,164	121,737	121,280	-573	457

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index



For the month of September, the South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), an aggregate of five labor-market indicators, fell from its revised August figure, nudging slightly lower in September to 100.81 from August's revised 100.89 figure. Revisions to previous levels were due, in part, to revisions in underlying components as well as to updated index methodology. Between December and April, the SCESTI had remained essentially flat. Since April, the 12-month moving average has been slowly declining as the index has edged lower. In September, the SCESTI is still below its 12-month moving average of 100.89.

With the exception of one underlying component, all other factors moved significantly in a positive direction. The Bureau of Labor Statistic's Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed production hours increasing significantly to a preliminary 42.5 hours per week in September, over its August level of 41.7, the second straight monthly increase. The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index increased a full 2.0 points from August, rising to its highest level since August of 2007. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance fell again from an August average of 2,369 per week to a September average of 2,254 per week. The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online data, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, was the only indicator to fall in September. It showed a decrease of 800 monthly jobs to 58,100, down from 58,900 total jobs in August. Finally, the Conference Board's Employment Trends Index increased in September, rising to 128.51 points over a revised August value of 127.96. Compared to September of 2015, the SCESTI is 0.23 points below the year-ago value of 101.04.

Employment and Wages of Engineers in 2015

There were about 1.6 million engineers employed in the United States in May 2015. Mechanical, civil, and industrial engineers together made up half of all employed engineers. The three smallest engineering occupations—agricultural engineers, marine engineers and naval architects, and mining and geological engineers—together made up about one percent of total engineer employment.

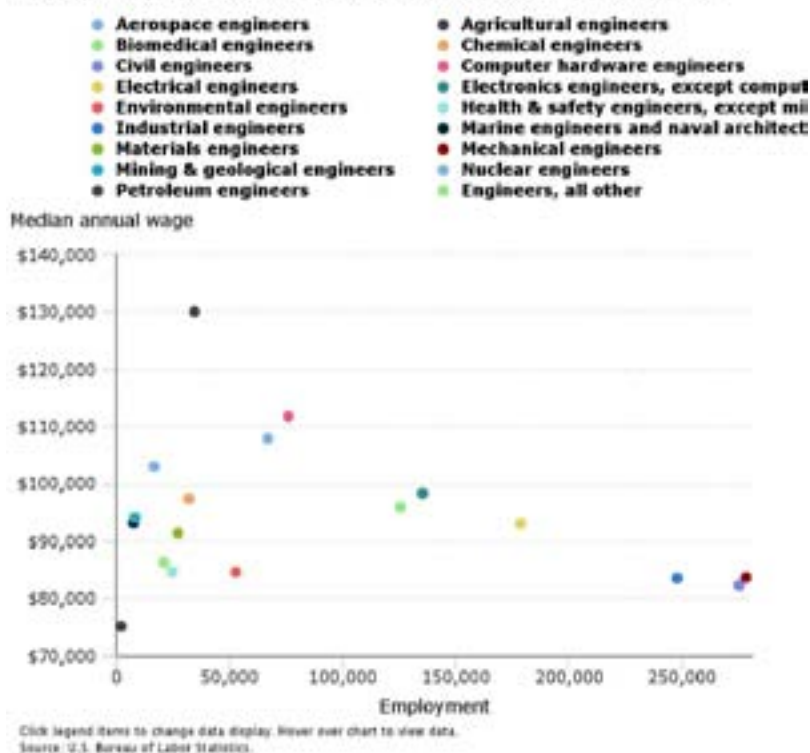
Engineers had a median annual wage of \$90,060 in 2015. That was more than twice the \$36,200 national median annual wage across all occupations. The median annual wage for petroleum engineers, \$129,990, was 73 percent higher than the median annual wage for agricultural engineers, \$75,090. The median annual wages for the three largest engineering occupations—mechanical, civil, and industrial—were all close to one another.

Civil Engineers

The median annual wage for civil engineers in 2015 was highest in Alaska, \$103,640. California, Texas, and New York had the largest number of employed civil engineers in 2015. Those states also were among the highest in median annual wages for civil engineers.

In South Carolina, civil engineering employment numbered 6,030 in 2015 with a median annual wage of \$72,630.

Employment and median annual wages of engineers, May 2015



Occupation	Employment	Median annual wage
Aerospace engineers	66,980	\$107,830
Agricultural engineers	2,330	\$75,090
Biomedical engineers	20,890	\$86,220
Chemical engineers	32,230	\$97,360
Civil engineers	275,210	\$82,220
Computer hardware engineers	75,870	\$111,730
Electrical engineers	178,580	\$93,010
Electronics engineers, except computer	135,390	\$98,270
Environmental engineers	52,600	\$84,560
Health & safety engineers, except mining	24,900	\$84,600
Industrial engineers	247,570	\$83,470
Marine engineers and naval architects	7,600	\$93,110
Materials engineers	27,040	\$91,310
Mechanical engineers	278,340	\$83,590
Mining & geological engineers	8,000	\$94,040
Nuclear engineers	16,880	\$102,950
Petroleum engineers	34,600	\$129,990
Engineers, all other	125,460	\$95,900

From U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, The Economics Daily