

South Carolina Economic Analysis Report

June 30

2020

An examination of the
state's economy and
workforce.



The 2020 South Carolina Economic Analysis Report is published by the Labor Market Information Department (LMI) of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW). The information and analyses provided in this publication are based on data collected from sources throughout South Carolina and the United States.

About DEW and LMI:

The Labor Market Information Department compiles and publishes employment statistics, job forecasts, wage data, demographics and other labor market information to help public and private organizations, researchers and others better understand today's complex workforce.

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Executive Summary

South Carolina's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$246.3 billion in 2019 with a four-year growth of \$42.4 billion. The growth rate from the previous year in real inflation-adjusted dollars was 3.0 percent. The top two industries in value in 2019 were Manufacturing as well as Finance, Insurance and Real Estate. Manufacturing grew the most in terms of real dollars from 2018 to 2019, followed by Professional and Business Services.

The state's total exports in 2019 were \$41.5 billion dollars or 17 percent of the state's GDP for the year. Transportation Equipment represented about 61 percent of the total export value, followed by Chemicals as well as Plastics and Rubber Products. China, Germany and Canada were the state's top export partners.

South Carolina had more than 141,000 business establishments in 2019 with 2.127 million jobs held, paying an average weekly wage of \$892. The small Mining and Quarrying industry grew the most in average weekly wages from the previous year at 18.5 percent, while the Management of Companies industry grew the most in average employment.

The state's population continues to increase. By 2018, the percent of the population graduating high school and those obtaining at least a Bachelor's degree increased to 88.4 percent and 28.3 percent, respectively. The veterans' share of the population decreased over the 2014-2018 period, as did the disabled population from 2017 to 2018. A smaller portion of the population changed residence from 2014 to 2018 in percentage terms.

South Carolina's labor market has improved dramatically over the past several years with the labor force and employment levels reaching all-time highs in 2019. The unemployment rate dropped considerably, falling to the historic low of 2.4 percent for the latter four months of 2019.

South Carolina had more than 2.108 million wage and salary jobs in occupations in 2019 with an average hourly wage of \$21.36. Office and Administrative Support and Sales and Related occupations had the highest number of jobs in 2019, followed by Sales and Related occupations and Food Preparation and Serving occupations.

The state's industries are projected to grow by 9.2 percent in employment over the 10-year period 2018-2028 or roughly by 198,000 jobs. Health Care and Social Assistance is projected to grow the most with a gain of nearly 36,000 jobs, followed by Accommodation and Food Services at an increase of 29,400 jobs and Administrative and Support at 25,200 more jobs. The state's occupational employment is projected to increase by an additional 209,000 new jobs, including self-employed workers, by 2028 with 297,000 annual job openings over the 10-year period.

Registered Nurses and Retail Salespersons were the top two most requested positions in advertised job postings in 2019. A labor supply-demand analysis shows that there were over 14,000 more job openings in 2018 than graduates from the state's colleges to fill them.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has been immense and is still ongoing. South Carolina's economy measured by the GDP fell by 4.8 percent in real dollars in the first quarter. Unemployment claims and unemployment rose, while employment fell. DEW implemented several programs to help the people affected. The effects of the pandemic are still being felt.

The state workforce development board's designated priority populations face challenges to employment that workforce officials help to overcome. Those populations include juvenile offenders, ex-offenders, homeless, veterans and others.

Introduction

South Carolina continued to have economic momentum moving from 2019 into early 2020. Mark Vitner, Senior Economist with Wells Fargo Securities, wrote in his economic roundup in February 2020, “South Carolina’s economy has consistently outperformed the nation the past decade, with employment rising rapidly and the unemployment rate falling to a record low of 2.3%.”¹ In terms of economic development, South Carolina posted another solid business recruitment year in 2018. From January to December, the state won 162 economic development projects, accounting for \$4.17 billion in capital investment and 14,071 new jobs.²

But the COVID-19 pandemic overwhelmed the state, the nation and the world in 2020, and its effect will be felt for some time. The purpose of the South Carolina Economic Analysis Report is to present an overview of key metrics used in examining South Carolina’s economy and workforce. The Labor Market Information Department of DEW compiles and publishes numerous data series on the state of the workforce. These measures and other pertinent data sources were utilized in this examination.

This report highlights a number of measures that illuminate several aspects of the state’s economy. The following section presents an overview of GDP for the state and its industries. Foreign trade of the state continues in the next section, followed by industry employment, population data and demographic characteristics. A detailed discussion of the state’s labor force follows.

Statewide portrayal of current occupational employment and wages, employment projections, job characteristics, top in-demand occupations and labor supply-demand analyses, form the next section. A brief discussion of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continues next. Finally, a discussion of the state workforce development board’s designated priority populations that face significant challenges to employment completes the document.

¹ Wells Fargo, South Carolina Outlook Heading into the Primary, February 24, 2020;

<https://www08.wellsfargomedia.com/assets/pdf/commercial/insights/economics/regional-reports/sc-primary-20200224.pdf>.

² S.C. Department of Commerce, Fiscal Year 2018-2019 accountability report;

https://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov/bitstream/handle/10827/32412/DOC_Annual_Accountability_Report_2018-2019.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

South Carolina Gross Domestic Product

South Carolina’s economy has been expanding by healthy measures over the past several years. **Figure 1** displays the state’s Gross Domestic Product from 2015 to 2019 and the percent gain for each year. By 2019, South Carolina had a \$246 billion economy, which has been growing strongly in the recent past.

Figure 1

S.C. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 2015-2019

Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Percent Change			
						2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Real GDP (millions of chained 2012 dollars)	\$189,899.8	\$195,459.6	\$201,872.6	\$207,202.6	\$213,451.2	2.9	3.3	2.6	3.0
Current-dollar GDP (millions of current dollars)	\$203,920.9	\$212,987.4	\$223,111.1	\$233,929.9	\$246,308.9	4.4	4.8	4.8	5.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

To show the underlying trends on a more detailed level, **Figure 2** presents the real gross domestic product on an industry basis. This is an inflation-adjusted measure that makes seeing a trend easier.

Figure 2

S.C. Real GDP by Industry *
(Millions of chained 2012 dollars)

Description	2018	2019	Numeric Change	Percent Change
All industry total	\$207,203	\$213,451	\$6,249	3.0%
Private industries	\$176,446	\$182,436	\$5,989	3.4%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$1,256	\$1,238	-\$17	-1.4%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	\$495	\$667	\$172	34.7%
Utilities	\$5,014	\$5,519	\$505	10.1%
Construction	\$9,358	\$9,284	-\$74	-0.8%
Manufacturing	\$34,415	\$35,915	\$1,499	4.4%
Durable goods manufacturing	\$21,270	\$22,415	\$1,146	5.4%
Nondurable goods manufacturing	\$13,154	\$13,510	\$356	2.7%
Wholesale trade	\$12,451	\$12,751	\$300	2.4%
Retail trade	\$14,894	\$15,674	\$781	5.2%
Transportation and warehousing	\$4,844	\$4,828	-\$16	-0.3%
Information	\$7,353	\$7,620	\$267	3.6%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing	\$33,889	\$34,632	\$743	2.2%
Finance and insurance	\$8,539	\$8,806	\$267	3.1%
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$25,364	\$25,834	\$470	1.9%
Professional and business services	\$23,313	\$24,605	\$1,292	5.5%
Professional, scientific, and technical services	\$12,250	\$12,737	\$487	4.0%
Management of companies and enterprises	\$2,642	\$3,330	\$689	26.1%
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	\$8,493	\$8,689	\$196	2.3%
Educational services, health care, and social assistance	\$15,697	\$16,178	\$481	3.1%
Educational services	\$1,512	\$1,489	-\$23	-1.5%
Health care and social assistance	\$14,200	\$14,712	\$511	3.6%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	\$9,220	\$9,400	\$179	1.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$1,358	\$1,397	\$39	2.9%
Accommodation and food services	\$7,861	\$8,003	\$141	1.8%
Other services (except government and government enterprises)	\$4,585	\$4,654	\$68	1.5%
Government and government enterprises	\$30,828	\$31,112	\$284	0.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

* Real GDP is in millions of chained 2012 dollars. Industry detail is based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Calculations are performed on unrounded data. Chained (2012) dollar series are calculated as the product of the chain-type quantity index and the 2012 current-dollar value of the corresponding series, divided by 100. Because the formula for the chain-type quantity indexes uses weights of more than one period, the corresponding chained-dollar estimates are usually not additive. The difference between the United States and sum-of-states reflects federal military and civilian activity located overseas, as well as the differences in source data used to estimate GDP by industry and the expenditures measure of real GDP.

The table shows a more modest growth overall of 3.0 percent from 2018 to 2019. The top industry in 2019 was Manufacturing followed by Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate. Government was the third largest industry in both years.

South Carolina's Foreign Trade

Driving much of the manufacturing increase has been South Carolina's growing export trade as illustrated by **Figure 3**.

Figure 3

South Carolina's Top 10 Export Industries
Values in millions of dollars

Industry	2016	2017	2018	2019	Perc Chg, 2018-2019	Percent of Total, 2019
336 Transportation Equipment	\$17,135	\$17,377	\$18,801	\$25,222	34.1%	60.8%
325 Chemicals	\$2,294	\$2,542	\$2,920	\$3,107	6.4%	7.5%
326 Plastics & Rubber Products	\$2,164	\$2,215	\$2,371	\$2,502	5.5%	6.0%
333 Machinery, Except Electrical	\$2,330	\$2,064	\$2,136	\$1,913	-10.4%	4.6%
334 Computer & Electronic Products	\$1,198	\$1,252	\$1,390	\$1,511	8.7%	3.6%
335 Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components	\$976	\$1,132	\$1,323	\$1,470	11.2%	3.5%
332 Fabricated Metal Products, Nesoi	\$1,317	\$1,262	\$1,086	\$1,208	11.3%	2.9%
322 Paper	\$1,065	\$1,153	\$1,206	\$1,062	-12.0%	2.6%
311 Food & Kindred Products	\$866	\$918	\$923	\$974	5.6%	2.3%
313 Textiles & Fabrics	\$559	\$576	\$677	\$701	3.5%	1.7%
Grand Total	\$31,324	\$32,201	\$34,629	\$41,456	19.7%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division

Total exports of \$41.5 billion dollars in 2019 represented 17 percent of the state's GDP as shown in **Figure 1**. Transportation Equipment is fully 61 percent of the total value of exports with Chemicals and Plastics and Rubber Products following. All of the top export industries are in manufacturing, highlighting the sector's value to the state. China is the state's top export partner with \$6.497 billion dollars in trade in 2019. **Figure 4** shows that Germany, Canada and the United Arab Emirates are leading partners as well. Foreign trade grew by nearly 20 percent in 2019.

Figure 4

South Carolina's Top 10 Export Partners
Values in millions of dollars

Area	2016	2017	2018	2019	Perc Chg, 2018-2019	Percent of Total, 2019
China	\$6,434	\$6,230	\$5,638	\$6,497	15.2%	15.7%
Germany	\$3,745	\$3,648	\$3,768	\$4,489	19.1%	10.8%
Canada	\$3,480	\$3,785	\$3,978	\$3,998	0.5%	9.6%
United Arab Emirates	\$533	\$395	\$1,182	\$2,373	100.7%	5.7%
Japan	\$1,094	\$1,660	\$1,636	\$2,267	38.6%	5.5%
Mexico	\$2,119	\$2,608	\$2,771	\$2,198	-20.7%	5.3%
United Kingdom	\$2,842	\$2,287	\$2,416	\$2,069	-14.3%	5.0%
Singapore	\$560	\$412	\$1,866	\$1,368	-26.7%	3.3%
Belgium	\$616	\$595	\$764	\$1,288	68.6%	3.1%
Taiwan	\$269	\$283	\$794	\$1,250	57.4%	3.0%
World	\$31,324	\$32,201	\$34,629	\$41,456	19.7%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division

South Carolina Industry Employment and Wages

South Carolina had more than 2.127 million wage and salary jobs in 2019 at 141,000 business establishments with an average weekly wage of \$892. **Figure 5** displays the employment and wages for the state's industry sectors.

Figure 5

South Carolina Industry Employment and Wages, 2019

Industry Code	Industry Title	2019			Percent Change from Year Ago		
		No. of Establishments	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage	No. of Establishments	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
10	Total, All Industries	141,360	2,127,494	\$892	-0.5%	1.7%	3.7%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,212	10,683	\$727	-0.7%	-2.3%	4.2%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	137	1,855	\$1,532	-3.5%	7.5%	18.5%
22	Utilities	492	16,416	\$1,711	8.8%	-3.3%	6.9%
23	Construction	12,977	106,938	\$1,062	-0.5%	2.5%	4.9%
31-33	Manufacturing	6,480	258,084	\$1,171	0.1%	3.4%	2.3%
42	Wholesale Trade	8,871	73,099	\$1,371	-3.0%	1.5%	4.3%
44-45	Retail Trade	18,126	252,709	\$552	-2.0%	0.0%	3.6%
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	4,042	79,314	\$880	-0.4%	4.4%	2.3%
51	Information	3,021	29,032	\$1,225	2.2%	-4.2%	6.6%
52	Finance and Insurance	8,006	70,532	\$1,380	1.6%	0.5%	4.2%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6,420	32,397	\$921	2.7%	1.9%	5.7%
54	Professional and Technical Services	19,637	104,325	\$1,412	0.1%	0.8%	4.0%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,085	25,034	\$1,626	4.9%	17.1%	3.9%
56	Administrative and Waste Services	8,887	170,598	\$676	-0.5%	-0.3%	2.7%
61	Educational Services	2,872	171,237	\$863	1.7%	1.0%	2.6%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	11,471	279,778	\$989	1.2%	2.1%	3.6%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,168	36,149	\$401	-1.0%	4.5%	3.9%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	11,386	237,385	\$358	-0.4%	2.1%	5.0%
81	Other Services, Except Public Administration	12,229	55,104	\$662	-2.6%	2.4%	4.3%
92	Public Administration	1,826	116,801	\$916	-1.1%	1.2%	3.0%

Source: DEW, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

Health Care and Social Assistance had the highest employment with 280,000 jobs, followed by Manufacturing with 258,000 jobs and Retail Trade at 253,000. Of the 141,000 business establishments in the state, 19,600 were engaged in the Professional and Technical Services industry, 18,100 were in Retail Trade and 13,000 were in Construction. The highest wages were found in Utilities with a weekly wage of \$1,711, followed by Management of Companies with a wage of \$1,626 and Mining at \$1,532. Accommodations and Food Services had the lowest average weekly wages at \$358.

In terms of percent change from a year ago, the state's average employment increased by 1.7 percent. Management of Companies grew the most at 17.1 percent, while Information declined by 4.2 percent. Utilities grew the most in establishments at 8.8 percent, and Mining declined by 3.5 percent. Average weekly wages overall grew by 3.7 percent over the past year. Mining wages leapt ahead by 18.5 percent, followed by Utilities with growth of 6.9 percent and the Information industry with 6.6 percent.

South Carolina's Population Trends

Certain population characteristics are important in terms of economic and workforce issues. Among those characteristics are educational attainment, veterans and disability status, and geographic mobility. A more educated workforce attracts industries into the state. Veterans offer work skills that are attractive to potential employers. The disabled workforce may require special conditions for employment. A mobile population can take advantage of their workforce skills in regions best suited for them.

Figure 6 displays such information for the state over the five-year period of 2014-2018. Over time, lower percentages of the population, aged 25 and older, have an education of less than a high school diploma, and higher percentages obtained more than a high school education. In 2018, 88.4 percent of the population aged 25 and older had a high school education, and 28.3 percent held a bachelor's degree or higher. The increasingly educated population bodes well for the state economically.

Figure 6

South Carolina Population Statistics

Subject	South Carolina				
	2018 Estimate	2017 Estimate	2016 Estimate	2015 Estimate	2014 Estimate
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT					
Population 25 years and over	3,492,355	3,443,851	3,388,476	3,319,832	3,260,929
Less than 9th grade	3.6%	4.0%	4.4%	4.4%	4.5%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	8.0%	8.6%	9.0%	9.2%	9.3%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	29.9%	29.5%	29.0%	29.4%	30.3%
Some college, no degree	20.1%	20.3%	21.0%	20.7%	20.7%
Associate's degree	10.2%	9.6%	9.4%	9.4%	8.8%
Bachelor's degree	18.0%	17.6%	17.4%	17.3%	16.7%
Graduate or professional degree	10.4%	10.4%	9.8%	9.5%	9.6%
Percent high school graduate or higher	88.4%	87.4%	86.6%	86.3%	86.1%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	28.3%	28.0%	27.2%	26.8%	26.3%
VETERAN STATUS					
Civilian population 18 years and over	3,948,709	3,890,364	3,828,451	3,778,952	3,719,245
Civilian veterans	9.2%	9.3%	9.6%	9.8%	9.9%
DISABILITY STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION					
Total Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population	4,990,240	4,928,260	4,861,188	4,801,301	4,733,742
With a disability	14.4%	14.8%	15.2%	14.8%	14.8%
Under 18 years	1,102,091	1,099,204	1,097,385	1,086,607	1,080,779
With a disability	4.4%	4.9%	4.9%	4.8%	4.5%
18 to 64 years	3,006,493	2,980,713	2,951,505	2,938,107	2,908,636
With a disability	12.2%	12.6%	13.2%	12.6%	12.9%
65 years and over	881,656	848,343	812,298	776,587	744,327
With a disability	34.3%	35.0%	36.2%	37.4%	37.3%
RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO					
Population 1 year and over	5,029,034	4,966,211	4,903,788	4,839,984	4,780,659
Same house	85.7%	85.5%	85.2%	84.8%	84.6%
Different house in the U.S.	13.9%	14.1%	14.4%	14.7%	15.0%
Same county	7.1%	7.4%	7.7%	8.1%	8.2%
Different county	6.8%	6.6%	6.8%	6.7%	6.8%
Same state	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%	3.1%	3.2%
Different state	3.7%	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%
Abroad	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table CP02 - Comparative Social Characteristics In The United States

The veterans' population share of the civilian population, aged 18 or higher, has decreased over the five-year period in the state to 9.2 percent of the civilian population aged 18 and older. The percentage of South Carolinians with a disability among the civilian noninstitutional population decreased over the past year to 14.4 percent as did those over the age of 65 with a disability, declining to 34.3 percent. The table demonstrates that a smaller portion of the population moved from their residence in 2018 than in 2014, falling from 15.0 percent to 13.9 percent, countering typical action in a growing economy.

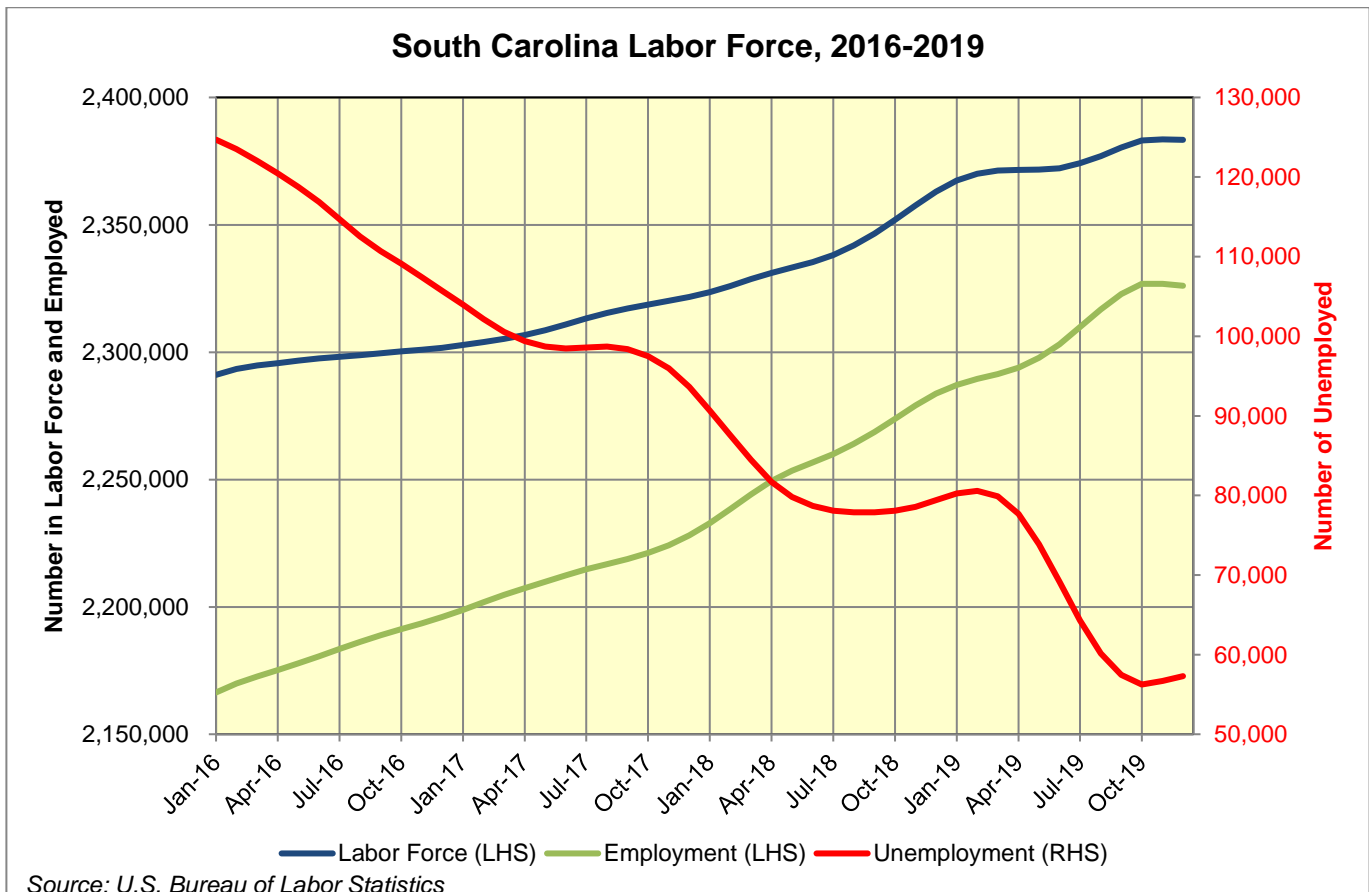
Over the recent past, South Carolina’s population, aged 25 and above, has been on the rise. From 2014 to 2018, the state increased by more than 231,000 people or 7.1 percent, fueling the state’s growing workforce as highlighted in the following section.

Labor Force Trends

An important component of the economy in South Carolina is the labor force. By definition, the labor force measures people at their residence location and equals the sum of the employed and the unemployed. **Figure 7** illustrates the movement of the labor force (left hand scale), employed (left hand scale), and unemployed (right hand scale) from 2016 to 2019.

Over the period 2016-2019, the labor market has improved drastically. The labor force has grown by 92,000 people over that time, reaching 2.383 million by December 2019.

Figure 7



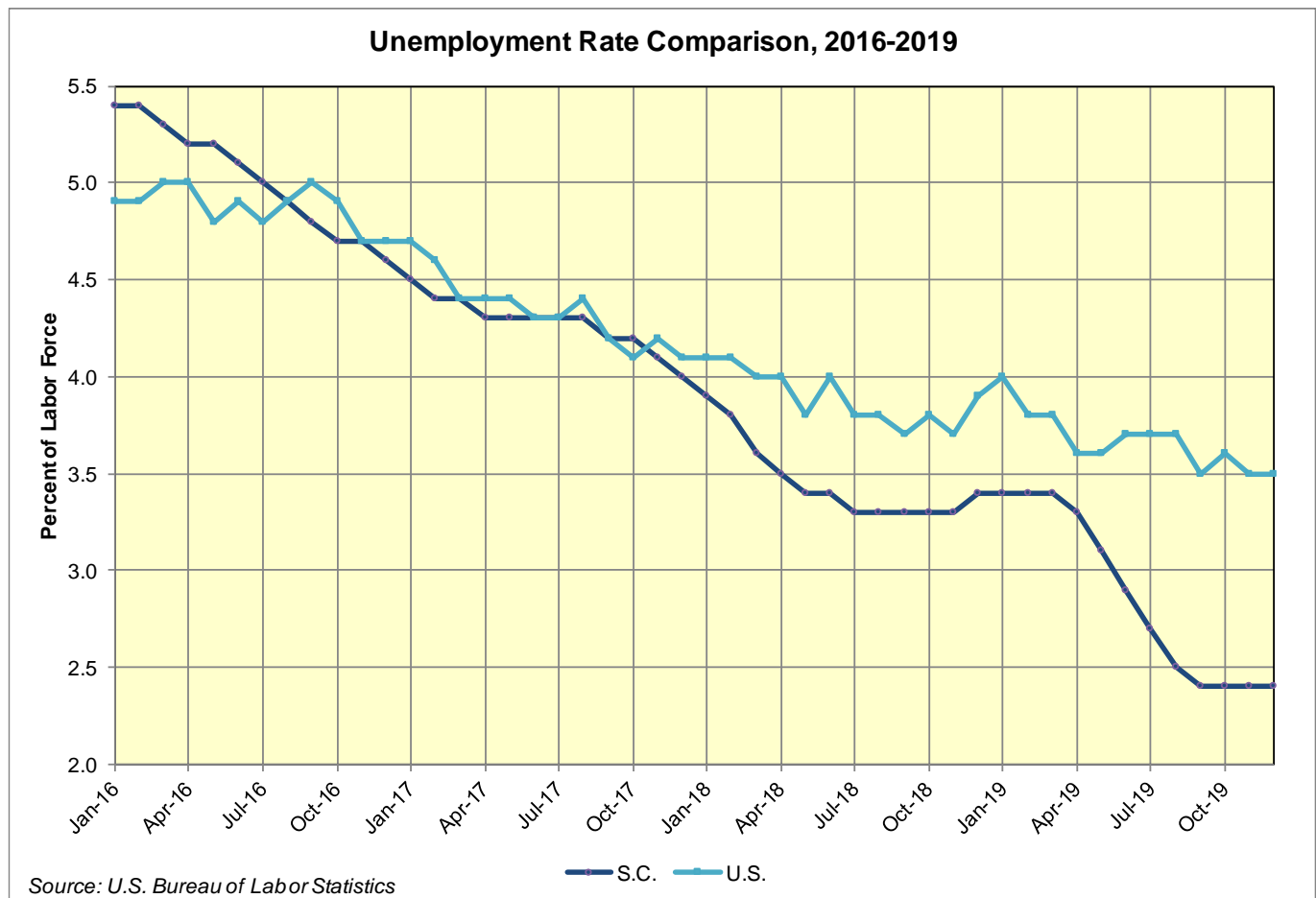
Employment has risen steadily over the period, climbing by 160,000 people to 2.326 million people in December 2019, a 7.4 percent increase from January 2016. Unemployment has fallen by 67,000 people over the four-year period from more than 125,000 in January 2016 to 57,279 in December 2019, a decline of 54 percent.

Unemployment Rate Trends

The unemployment rate is the percent of the labor force that is unemployed. In South Carolina, the unemployment rate has fallen dramatically over the latest four-year period. In January 2016, the rate stood at 5.4 percent, and by the end of 2019, the figure had dropped to 2.4 percent, the lowest-ever level. Likewise, the U.S. unemployment rate fell from 4.9 percent to 3.5 percent over the same period. As a comparison, from December 2009 to February 2010, at the height of the Great Recession, South Carolina’s unemployment rate reached 11.7 percent. **Figure 8** highlights the movement of the unemployment rates over the recent four-year period.

South Carolina’s rate held at 2.4 percent for the last four months of 2019, and the state has had a rate below 4.0 percent for the past two years. The state’s rate has continued below the national rate since November 2017.

Figure 8



Occupational Employment and Wages

South Carolina had 2.108 million wage and salary occupational employees in 2019 with an average hourly wage of \$21.36. **Figure 9** summarizes more than 800 detailed occupations into major occupational groups and presents employment and average wage information.

Figure 9

S.C. Occupational Employment and Wages, 2019

Occupation Code	Occupation Title	Total Employment	Hourly Mean Wage	Hourly Median Wage
00-0000	All Occupations	2,107,760	\$21.34	\$16.68
11-0000	Management Occupations	93,530	\$50.50	\$43.96
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	82,210	\$32.09	\$29.05
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	43,570	\$36.56	\$34.23
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	42,300	\$38.56	\$36.38
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	11,440	\$32.29	\$29.39
21-0000	Community and Social Service Occupations	26,890	\$20.91	\$18.51
23-0000	Legal Occupations	13,750	\$37.51	\$27.59
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	111,850	\$23.60	\$22.55
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	19,520	\$24.13	\$19.58
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	128,110	\$35.10	\$28.72
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	76,040	\$13.49	\$12.34
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	48,290	\$18.77	\$17.44
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	216,890	\$10.87	\$9.53
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	70,280	\$12.59	\$11.43
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	43,620	\$12.86	\$10.56
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	228,040	\$17.36	\$12.30
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	276,980	\$17.67	\$16.41
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	3,990	\$17.24	\$14.81
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	84,910	\$20.94	\$18.84
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	95,290	\$21.90	\$20.66
51-0000	Production Occupations	198,450	\$19.02	\$17.42
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	191,820	\$15.91	\$14.08

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES), 2019

The Office and Administrative Support category had the highest occupational employment with 277,000 jobs, followed by Sales and Related occupations with 228,000 and Food Preparation and Serving occupations with 217,000 employees. The highest average hourly wages were found in Management occupations at \$50.50 per hour, Architecture and Engineering occupations at \$38.56 per hour, and Legal occupations at \$37.51 per hour. Food Preparation and Serving-Related occupations had the lowest average wage at \$10.87 per hour.

Statewide Employment Projections

Industry Employment Projections

Figure 10 presents the latest available statewide industry employment projections over the 10-year period 2018-2028. Overall, all industries are projected to grow by 9.2 percent or by 198,000 jobs. Health Care and Social Assistance; Administrative and Support and Waste Management; and Accommodation and Food Services are each expected to increase employment by over 25,000 jobs. Mining and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting are projected to decline slightly.

In 2028, Health Care and Social Assistance will lead in industry employment, followed by Manufacturing and Accommodation and Food Services. Management of Companies is projected to grow the fastest at 19.9 percent along with Professional and Technical Services at 15.3 percent and Administrative and Support and Waste Management at 14.8 percent.

Figure 10

S.C. Industry Employment Projections, 2018-2028

Industry Code	Industry Title	Base Year Employment	Projected Year Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
000000	Total All Industries	2,144,656	2,342,644	197,988	9.2%
110000	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	14,054	13,901	-153	-1.1%
210000	Mining	1,728	1,717	-11	-0.6%
230000	Construction	104,251	116,779	12,528	12.0%
310000	Manufacturing	249,684	272,310	22,626	9.1%
420000	Wholesale Trade	71,988	79,282	7,294	10.1%
440000	Retail Trade	251,812	256,035	4,223	1.7%
480000	Transportation and Warehousing	68,818	77,487	8,669	12.6%
220000	Utilities	12,029	12,083	54	0.4%
510000	Information	28,157	29,597	1,440	5.1%
520000	Finance and Insurance	69,803	73,413	3,610	5.2%
530000	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	31,055	34,713	3,658	11.8%
540000	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	102,186	117,844	15,658	15.3%
550000	Management of Companies and Enterprises	21,827	26,163	4,336	19.9%
560000	Administrative and Support and Waste Management	170,681	195,888	25,207	14.8%
610000	Educational Services	169,341	175,642	6,301	3.7%
620000	Health Care and Social Assistance	253,324	289,208	35,884	14.2%
710000	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	31,616	35,591	3,975	12.6%
720000	Accommodation and Food Services	232,442	261,869	29,427	12.7%
810000	Other Services (except Government)	101,124	108,284	7,160	7.1%
900000	Government	158,736	164,838	6,102	3.8%

Source: DEW, Employment Projections Program

Occupational Employment Projections

The statewide occupational projections include self-employed workers in addition to industry employment estimates for the period 2018-2028. **Figure 11** highlights the projections by major occupation group. Office and Administrative Support occupations are projected to have the highest number of employees in 2028

with 328,000, followed by Sales and Related occupations with 263,000, and Food Preparation and Serving Related occupations with 243,000. Production occupations are expected to employ 219,000 in 2028.

Overall, the state is projected to have more than 296,000 annual job openings in all occupations. Food Preparation and Serving Related occupations is expected to have the most openings at nearly 42,000 per year over the 10-year period, followed by Office and Administrative Support and Sales and Related occupations with more than 37,000 openings each. Production and Transportation and Material Moving occupations are expected to have more than 23,000 annual job openings each.

Figure 11

S.C. Occupational Employment Projections, 2018-2028

SOC Code	SOC Title	Base Employment	Projection Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Annual Job Openings
00-0000	Total, All Occupations	2,264,516	2,473,572	209,056	9.2	296,525
11-0000	Management Occupations	109,790	122,356	12,566	11.5	10,993
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	87,599	99,138	11,539	13.2	10,026
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	42,251	49,290	7,039	16.7	4,074
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	42,933	49,444	6,511	15.2	4,219
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	11,209	12,331	1,122	10.0	1,243
21-0000	Community and Social Service Occupations	29,905	33,064	3,159	10.6	3,634
23-0000	Legal Occupations	16,489	18,700	2,211	13.4	1,517
25-0000	Education, Training, and Library Occupations	114,175	120,195	6,020	5.3	10,908
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	26,596	28,378	1,782	6.7	3,237
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	129,983	143,393	13,410	10.3	9,133
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	57,098	67,439	10,341	18.1	8,122
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	51,570	55,436	3,866	7.5	5,862
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	214,053	243,250	29,197	13.6	41,985
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	90,876	102,408	11,532	12.7	13,748
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	86,126	100,959	14,833	17.2	15,867
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	251,105	262,960	11,855	4.7	37,336
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	321,235	327,824	6,589	2.1	39,153
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	10,195	9,879	-316	-3.1	1,585
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	100,358	112,249	11,891	11.9	12,954
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	103,351	115,408	12,057	11.7	11,837
51-0000	Production Occupations	204,928	219,339	14,411	7.0	25,715
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	162,691	180,132	17,441	10.7	23,378

Source: DEW, Employment Projections Program

Job Characteristics

Job Skills

Understanding in-demand job skills can help educators set curriculum to train workers in order to meet future demand. The Occupational Information Network (O*NET) of the U.S. Department of Labor defines job skills as capacities developed through education or experience that help one perform the job, such as "reading comprehension." The table in **Figure 12** identifies the number of projected annual job openings over the period 2018-2028 by Occupational Information Network job skill for South Carolina statewide.

Figure 12

S.C. Projected Annual Job Openings by Job Skill Needed

Skills	Average Annual Job Openings	Skills	Average Annual Job Openings
Active Listening	256,670	Learning Strategies	35,130
Critical Thinking	254,823	Quality Control Analysis	29,826
Speaking	249,315	Mathematics	26,268
Monitoring	221,013	Negotiation	25,323
Reading Comprehension	207,057	Management of Personnel Resources	21,875
Coordination	204,414	Troubleshooting	17,378
Social Perceptiveness	187,276	Repairing	14,874
Service Orientation	155,030	Equipment Maintenance	13,865
Time Management	114,782	Systems Analysis	6,754
Judgment and Decision Making	111,631	Systems Evaluation	5,019
Writing	99,240	Operations Analysis	3,079
Active Learning	70,494	Installation	2,465
Persuasion	56,671	Science	2,161
Operation Monitoring	53,560	Programming	1,566
Operation and Control	50,039	Management of Financial Resources	1,005
Complex Problem Solving	36,879	Equipment Selection	225
Instructing	35,328		

Source: DEW, Employment Projections Program; U.S. Dept. of Labor

The top skills for the state in terms of job openings are:

- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Speaking
- Monitoring

The top skills are more general in nature and are required by many occupations and can be sharpened with proper training. More specific job skills, such as Installation or Operations Analysis or Programming, are less widespread and demanded and relate to particular occupations.

Job Knowledge

Another set of information that is relevant for educators is in-demand job knowledge. Job knowledge, as defined by O*NET, is an organized sets of principles and facts that apply to a wide range of situations, such as knowledge of “mathematics,” “chemistry” or “fine arts.” The table in **Figure 13** identifies the number of projected annual job openings over the period 2018-2028 by O*NET job knowledge for the state.

Figure 13

S.C. Projected Annual Job Openings by Job Knowledge Needed

Knowledge	Average Annual Job Openings	Knowledge	Average Annual Job Openings
English Language	263,705	Design	25,316
Customer and Personal Service	259,106	Building and Construction	23,155
Mathematics	200,314	Therapy and Counseling	21,431
Education and Training	179,340	Law and Government	20,496
Administration and Management	147,001	Economics and Accounting	18,585
Computers and Electronics	141,386	Sociology and Anthropology	14,799
Clerical	109,499	Medicine and Dentistry	14,629
Public Safety and Security	97,154	Biology	13,679
Sales and Marketing	92,749	Physics	9,996
Mechanical	75,399	Geography	8,776
Psychology	69,824	Communications and Media	8,008
Production and Processing	62,641	Philosophy and Theology	5,650
Food Production	42,608	Telecommunications	5,092
Engineering and Technology	33,590	History and Archeology	2,123
Transportation	33,080	Fine Arts	1,017
Personnel and Human Resources	32,538	Foreign Language	204
Chemistry	28,199		

Source: DEW, Employment Projections Program; U.S. Dept. of Labor

The top job knowledge categories for the state are:

- English Language
- Customer and Personal Service
- Mathematics
- Education and Training
- Administration and Management

Similar to the top job skills, the top knowledge areas are more general in nature and are required by many occupations. More specific job skills, such as Foreign Language or Fine Arts, are less widespread and demanded, and they relate to particular occupations.

Top In-Demand Occupations

Registered nurses are in great demand by the state employers, as are nursing assistants, retail salespersons, supervisors of retail sales workers and stock clerks. **Figure 10** lists those top occupations that employers request in job advertisements in the state in 2019. Other top occupations service the manufacturing and tourist industries in South Carolina, such as truck drivers, maintenance workers, supervisors of production workers, cashiers and maids.

Figure 14

South Carolina Top 25 In-Demand Occupations, 2019

Occupation Code	Occupation Title	S.C. 2019 Average Hourly Wage
29-1141	Registered Nurses	\$31.17
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	\$13.07
41-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	\$19.78
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	\$16.51
41-4012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	\$32.25
11-9199	Managers, All Other	\$51.86
15-1199	Computer Occupations, All Other	\$40.66
53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$20.90
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	\$17.68
15-1132	Software Developers, Applications	\$44.44
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food *	\$10.87
49-9071	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$18.09
11-9111	Medical and Health Services Managers	\$49.03
43-5081	Stock Clerks and Order Fillers **	\$17.67
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$14.37
13-1071	Human Resources Specialists	\$29.50
31-1014	Nursing Assistants	\$12.77
11-9051	Food Service Managers	\$29.49
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	\$49.15
41-2011	Cashiers	\$10.20
43-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$25.61
37-2011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$11.57
33-9032	Security Guards	\$15.68
29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$20.29
49-3023	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$19.94

Source: Labor Insight (Burning Glass Technologies), Help Wanted Online® Data Series (HWOL); Wages: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

* Wages for Food Preparation and Serving Workers

** Wages for Office and Administrative Support Occupations

Labor Market Supply-Demand Gap

A tool workforce professionals use to help them understand the labor market is the supply-demand gap analysis. A gap analysis of labor supply and demand compares the number of student completions from public and private postsecondary institutions to projected annual job openings that require education beyond high school. This analysis uses data from the Institute of Education Sciences, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and compares it to the latest available analysis on the average annual job openings from DEW’s Occupational Employment Projections Program, 2018-2028, which shows the

annual openings over the 10-year projection period. The openings shown are for those occupations requiring more than a high school education, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The job openings data details the expected annual job openings and includes the typical educational job requirements to enter the occupation, the work experience needed for the job, the on-the-job training needed for the position and the occupational code, which is matched to one of 16 education-based career clusters.

A note to consider when examining the BLS assignment of the typical educational requirements for entry into an occupation is that it does not include all paths of entry. Many positions require higher levels of education than the level stated by BLS. In addition, changing entry requirements for some occupations may lead to higher educated individuals entering jobs than those who already hold a similar position.

The IPEDS program completer database covers the year 2018 and includes the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code, the type of completed award, the institution type and number of graduates. Each CIP code is matched to one of 16 career clusters for comparison to the job openings data.

The IPEDS databases were summarized by career cluster and award type. The job openings were summarized by career cluster for the education levels above high school. **Figures 15, 16, and 17** present tables highlighting the entire analysis.

Figure 15

S.C. Postsecondary Program Completers, 2018 (Supply)

Career Cluster	Some College or Associates	Bachelor's	Masters	Doctorate	Total
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	237	413	46	11	707
Architecture & Construction	1,001	168	76	3	1,248
Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications	241	2,199	168	26	2,634
Business Management & Administration	1,473	3,729	1,297	17	6,516
Education & Training	4,679	4,319	1,975	155	11,128
Finance	299	1,615	292	0	2,206
Government & Public Administration	0	824	127	4	955
Health Science	5,645	2,452	918	964	9,979
Hospitality & Tourism	339	585	37	14	975
Human Services	2,166	2,088	630	43	4,927
Information Technology	752	874	193	14	1,833
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	565	893	66	301	1,825
Manufacturing	2,247	24	0	0	2,271
Marketing	145	1,505	38	0	1,688
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics	927	6,471	1,100	331	8,829
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	922	34	7	0	963
Grand Total	21,638	28,193	6,970	1,883	58,684

Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS); National Research Center for Career and Technical Education

Figure 16

S.C. Projected Annual Job Openings, 2018-2028 (Demand)

Career Cluster	Some college or Associates	Bachelor's	Masters	Doctorate	Total
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	109	201	0	0	310
Architecture & Construction	1,048	977	0	0	2,025
Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications	913	1,108	0	0	2,021
Business Management & Administration	421	10,063	0	0	10,484
Education & Training	2,655	6,467	1,567	1,477	12,166
Finance	2,601	4,202	0	0	6,803
Government & Public Administration	0	716	41	0	757
Health Science	8,792	4,077	673	1,093	14,635
Hospitality & Tourism	68	0	0	0	68
Human Services	1,516	1,502	570	145	3,733
Information Technology	1,195	2,707	34	0	3,936
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	1,464	42	0	557	2,063
Manufacturing	1,517	0	0	0	1,517
Marketing	0	2,857	0	0	2,857
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics	34	3,535	55	34	3,658
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	5,948	10	0	0	5,958
Grand Total	28,281	38,464	2,940	3,306	72,991

Source: DEW, Employment Projections Program

Figure 17

S.C. Labor Supply Gap (Labor Supply - Demand)

Career Cluster	Some college or Associates	Bachelor's	Masters	Doctorate	Total
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	128	212	46	11	397
Architecture & Construction	-47	-809	76	3	-777
Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications	-672	1,091	168	26	613
Business Management & Administration	1,052	-6,334	1,297	17	-3,968
Education & Training	2,024	-2,148	408	-1,322	-1,038
Finance	-2,302	-2,587	292	0	-4,597
Government & Public Administration	0	108	86	4	198
Health Science	-3,147	-1,625	245	-129	-4,656
Hospitality & Tourism	271	585	37	14	907
Human Services	650	586	60	-102	1,194
Information Technology	-443	-1,833	159	14	-2,103
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	-899	851	66	-256	-238
Manufacturing	730	24	0	0	754
Marketing	145	-1,352	38	0	-1,169
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics	893	2,936	1,045	297	5,171
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	-5,026	24	7	0	-4,995
Grand Total	-6,643	-10,271	4,030	-1,423	-14,307

Source: DEW

Several observations can be made concerning the results. There are more than 14,000 more projected job openings than graduates for the year. Only for occupations requiring a Master’s degree is there enough of a supply of graduates. Nine of the 16 career clusters have a supply gap. A few notable findings are:

- In Business Management and Administration, there is a severe labor supply shortage at the Bachelor's degree but a surplus at the Master's degree level. Perhaps, graduates are training to be in a more favorable employment situation.
- In Education and Training, there is a surplus at the less than four-year level and a shortage at the bachelor's degree level to roughly the same magnitude. Students are taking general or liberal arts studies below the Bachelor's degree level, while a myriad of positions have openings at the next level, including teachers. There are numerous openings for postsecondary teachers at the doctorate level as well.
- In Finance, there are nearly 4,900 more openings than graduates at the Bachelor's degree level and below.
- In Health Science, there is a labor shortage at the lower half of the educational spectrum. Most of the openings below the Bachelor's degree level are for assistants and technicians, while nearly three-fourths of the openings for a Bachelor's degree are for registered nurses.
- In Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics, there is a severe shortage below the Bachelor's degree level with 72 percent of the openings being for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

The gap analysis is just a representation of the true gap between labor supply and labor demand. Of course, more than just recent graduates would be able to fill the projected job openings, such as those who are unemployed or not in the labor force who hold the credentials to qualify for a particular position. The analysis also does not consider potential out-of-state candidates that could fill in-state job openings.

Initial Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

In the first quarter of 2020, the coronavirus COVID-19 exploded out of Asia and encircled the globe, causing untold death and economic devastation. At this time, the pandemic is ongoing and the full effects have yet to be felt. Early statistics measuring its initial impacts in South Carolina include GDP, unemployment claims and labor force. In 2019, South Carolina's economy was growing strong with a GDP over \$242 billion throughout the year in current dollar terms and over \$211 billion in real terms as highlighted in **Figure 18**.

Figure 18

S.C. Gross Domestic Product and Quarterly Percent Change

Description	2019:Q1	2019:Q2	2019:Q3	2019:Q4	2020:Q1
Real GDP (millions of chained 2012 dollars)	\$211,884.5	\$212,838.3	\$213,872.3	\$215,209.7	\$212,591.2
Current-dollar GDP (millions of current dollars)	\$242,483.7	\$245,082.8	\$247,710.6	\$249,958.4	\$248,290.6

Real GDP is in millions of chained 2012 dollars. Calculations are performed on unrounded data. Chained (2012) dollar series are calculated as the product of the chain-type quantity index and the 2012 current-dollar value of the corresponding series, divided by 100. Because the formula for the chain-type quantity indexes uses weights of more than one period, the corresponding chained-dollar estimates are usually not additive.

Percent change from preceding period (annualized)

Description	2018:Q4- 2019:Q1	2019:Q1- :Q2	2019:Q2- :Q3	2019:Q3- :Q4	2019:Q4- 2020:Q1
Real GDP (millions of chained 2012 dollars)	3.5	1.8	2.0	2.5	-4.8
Current-dollar GDP (millions of current dollars)	5.6	4.4	4.4	3.7	-2.6

Real GDP is in millions of chained 2012 dollars. Calculations are performed on unrounded data. Chained (2012) dollar series are calculated as the product of the chain-type quantity index and the 2012 current-dollar value of the corresponding series, divided by 100. Because the formula for the chain-type quantity indexes uses weights of more than one period, the corresponding chained-dollar estimates are usually not additive.

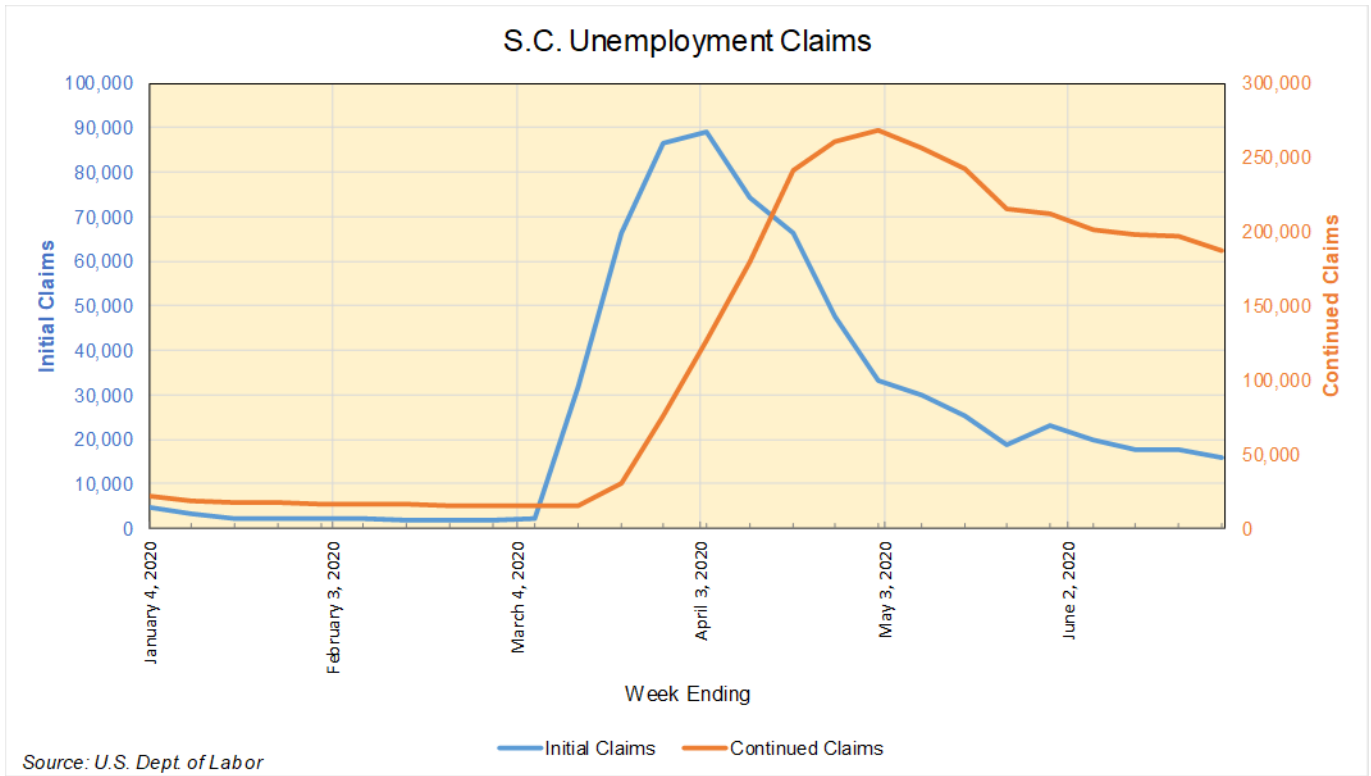
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

The growth rate in the fourth quarter of 2019 was 3.7 percent in current dollars and 2.5 percent in real dollars. Then in the first quarter of 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic came upon the nation and the world, the state GDP fell by over \$2.6 billion dollars in real dollars, or a 4.8 percent decline.

The pandemic had a major impact on the labor market in South Carolina. As shown in **Figure 19**, unemployment claims in the state skyrocketed beginning in March. For the week ending on March 7, initial claims were 2,093. One week later initial claims exploded to 31,826 and reached a peak of 89,147 for the week ending April 4. By the last week of June, those claims had fallen to 16,015, still nearly eight times the pre-pandemic measure.

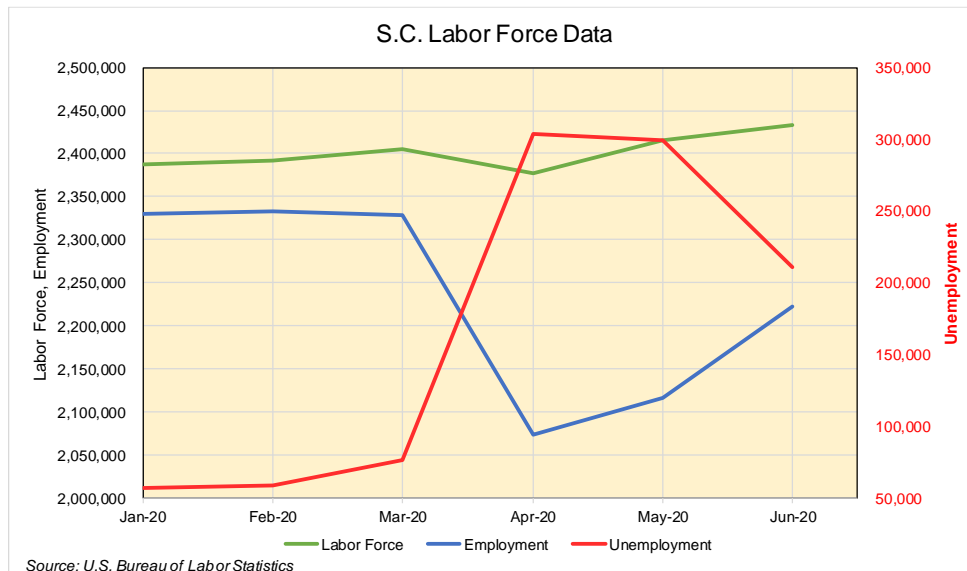
In terms of continued claims, a similar pattern is observed. Claims rose from just over 15,000 before the pandemic to 30,341 for the week ending March 21. That figure rose to 75,521 the following week, peaking at 268,701 for the week ending May 2. By the last week of June, continued claims had fallen to 187,282.

Figure 19



The state’s labor force experienced major disruptions in 2020. **Figure 20** displays the impact of the pandemic on employment, unemployment and the labor force.

Figure 20



In March 2020, employment fell (-4,422) for only the second month since January 2019. In April, it plummeted by 255,332 people before rebounding in May by almost 43,000 and in June by 105,714. Conversely, unemployment rose by 17,738 in March 2020 and exploded by 226,991 in April. The measure fell by more than 92,000 people combined in May and June. The labor force rose in March before falling in April. It rose again in May and June as more people searched for work.

DEW implemented a number of programs, state and federal, to help combat the effects of COVID-19, illustrated in this section.

Priority Populations

South Carolina citizens and its workforce are very diverse. Different population groups often face varying challenges and barriers and may need more specific or dedicated services to meet their employment and training needs. The State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) focuses on several priority populations as described below.

Juvenile Offenders

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17, the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) handled 13,591 new cases, down from 15,429 in 2015-2016. The top five offenses putting a person into DJJ custody are assault and battery, shoplifting, public disorderly conduct, simple marijuana possession and disturbing school.

DJJ's Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) had a total enrollment of 1,423 for its training classes in FY 2016-17. Students at JRTC took classes in financial literacy, culinary arts, leadership, interviewing skills, public speaking, interpersonal skills and in many other areas related to life skills and job placement. During FY 2016-2017, 901 youth completed job-readiness training in DJJ's 16 community job-readiness training sites, located throughout the state. DJJ doubled its number of training sites from the previous fiscal year and nearly doubled the number of participants.³

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

In August 2017, the number of residents in the state receiving TANF benefits was 22,548, the lowest level since before 2007. Youth, 18 years and younger, accounted for 79 percent of all recipients. The average monthly grant amount to a TANF recipient through the S.C. Department of Social Services program was \$207. This group may have difficulty obtaining a family-sustaining wage. Even when they have jobs, the pay is often low. Training and employment support should be provided as this group may often lack the education and needed skills to get a better job.⁴

³ South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, 2017 Report Card, http://www.state.sc.us/djj/pdfs/2017%20Report%20Card_5.5x8.5.pdf

⁴ South Carolina Department of Social Services, <https://dss.sc.gov/assistance-programs/tanf/>

Ex-Offenders

As of June 30, 2019, South Carolina had an inmate population of 18,848. For the FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), the S.C. Department of Corrections (SCDC) had 7,519 total releases from its base population. The average age of an inmate was 39.0 years old. African-Americans made up 59 percent of the total with whites at 38 percent and other races with 3 percent. The average sentence length is 14.8 years. Forty-nine percent of inmates do not have a high school diploma or GED upon entering incarceration.⁵

The SCDC had numerous individuals reaching achievements in FY 2019, including 360 GED/High School Diplomas Earned and 2,260 Vocational Certificates earned. The SCDC has been authorized as a Department of Labor (DOL) apprenticeship site, but did not award any DOL apprenticeship credentials in FY 2019. However, 1,498 WorkKeys certificates were awarded. SCDC, in partnership with the Department of Employment and Workforce, transitioned to the new WIN Learning - Ready to Work certification program.⁶

People who have been imprisoned face several challenges re-entering society, such as overcoming their past criminal history when seeking employment. Lack of education, poor computer skills, poor people skills, low self-esteem, substance abuse problems and access to transportation are problems that may be faced by an ex-offender during the job search.

Veterans

According to the 2018 American Community Survey, South Carolina had 363,000 civilian veterans aged 18 or older, making up 9.2 percent of the state's civilian adult population. Veterans had a higher percentage having some college education or an associate's degree compared to the population aged 25 and older as a whole (39.3 percent for veterans, 30.2 percent for all). Veterans had a lower unemployment rate at 4.7 percent than the civilian population aged 18 to 64 (5.3 percent).⁷

Veterans may have to overcome stereotypes employers may have such as thinking that all post 9/11-veterans have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). However, veterans have a great deal to contribute to any company. Many veterans have jobs skills that transfer directly to the civilian world, such as integrity, attention to detail, leadership, problem solving and a team-player mentality.

⁵ South Carolina Department of Corrections, SCDC FAQs July 2019, http://www.doc.sc.gov/research/SystemOverview/SCDC_FAQs_June_2020.pdf

⁶ South Carolina Department of Corrections, Accountability Report Fiscal Year 2018, Page 9, <http://www.doc.sc.gov/research/AccountabilityReportFY2019.pdf>

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 1-Year Estimate, Table S2101: Veteran Status

Disabled

Estimates from the American Community Survey in 2018 show that 14.4 percent of the state’s civilian noninstitutionalized population was disabled.⁸ The disabled employed equaled nearly 122,300 people aged 18 to 64. Nearly 18,500 more people were unemployed, yielding a disabled unemployment rate of 13.1 percent. Ambulatory difficulty was the top disability for both those employed and those not in the labor force, while a cognitive difficulty was reported as the top disability for those who were unemployed.⁹ Therefore, this group will continue to need focused services to overcome substantial barriers to employment.

Homeless

South Carolina’s homeless population was estimated at 3,318 people in 2019, up 6.1 percent from 2018, including 462 veterans, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A total homeless rate of 8.3 per 10,000 people were experiencing homelessness.¹⁰

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the first step in supporting the homeless population is to get them into housing. The Alliance suggests rapid rehousing because, “By connecting people with a home, they are in a better position to address other challenges that may have led to their homelessness, such as obtaining employment or addressing substance abuse issues.”¹¹

Long-term Unemployed

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics considers someone unemployed for 27 weeks or more to be long-term unemployed. In 2018, South Carolina had 22,000 people in this category with a total of 82,000 unemployed.¹² DEW has a number of programs that can help this population regain employment.

Low Income

In 2018, South Carolina had an estimated 755,215 people living below the poverty level or 15.3 percent of the population for whom poverty status is determined. Of this group, nearly 163,732 were employed, and 41,176 were unemployed.¹³ Government and educational assistance can help many in this population raise their income to sustaining levels.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 1-Year Estimate, Table S1810:Disability Characteristics

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 1-Year Estimate, Table B18120: Employment Status by Disability and Type

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, The 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, page 93

¹¹ National Alliance to End Homelessness, Rapid Re-Housing, <https://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/rapid-re-housing/>, accessed on July 12, 2019

¹² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 2018, Table 26, <https://www.bls.gov/opub/geographic-profile/home.htm>

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 1-Year Estimate, Table S1701:Poverty Status in the Past 12 months

Required Language

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S. C. Department of Employment and Workforce
1550 Gadsden Street Columbia, South Carolina 29202

(803) 737-2660

www.dew.sc.gov

www.scworkforceinfo.com

