



# **SOUTH CAROLINA ECONOMIC ANALYSIS REPORT**

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE**

**JUNE 30TH, 2022**

An examination of the state's  
economy and workforce.



**Labor Market  
Information**



# ABOUT DEW AND LMI

The Labor Market Information Division 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 \$270.1 billion in 2021 with a four-year growth of \$47 billion. The growth rate from the previous year, in real inflation-adjusted dollars, was 5.9 percent. The top two industries in value in 2021 were Finance, Insurance and Real Estate as well as Manufacturing. Manufacturing grew the most in terms of real dollars from 2020 to 2021, followed by Professional and Business Services.

The state's total exports in 2021 were \$29.7 billion dollars, or 11 percent of the state's GDP, for the year. Transportation Equipment represented 47.1 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 152,000 business establishments in 2021, with 2.093 million jobs held, paying an average weekly wage of \$1,006. The Information industry grew the most in average weekly wages from the previous year at 15.5 percent, while the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation industry grew the most in average employment.

The state's population continues to increase. By 2020, the percent of the population graduating high school and those obtaining at least a Bachelor's degree increased to 89.4 percent and 31.7 percent, respectively. The veterans' share of the population decreased over the 2016-2020 period, as did the disabled population from 2016 to 2020.

South Carolina's labor market has improved over the past several years with the labor force and employment levels reaching all-time highs in 2021. The unemployment rate had a tumultuous period, reaching highs of 11.6 percent in 2020 and lows of 2.4 percent in 2019.

South Carolina had more than 2.067 million wage and salary jobs in occupations in 2021 with an average hourly wage of \$22.83. Office and Administrative Support and Sales and Related occupations had the highest number of jobs in 2021, followed by Transportation and Material Moving occupations and Production occupations.

The state's industries are projected to grow by 12.6 percent in employment over the 10-year period 2020-2030 or roughly by 261,000 jobs. Accommodation and Food Services is projected to grow the most with a gain of 44,900 jobs, followed by Health Care and Social Assistance at an increase of 43,000 jobs, and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services at 35,100 more jobs. The state's occupational employment is projected to increase by an additional 263,000 new jobs, including self-employed workers, by 2030 with 286,000 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 2021. A labor supply-demand analysis shows that there were over 13,500 more job openings in 2020 than graduates from the state's colleges to fill them.

The harsh impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on South Carolina is receding. South Carolina Real GDP and Current-dollar GDP stagnated in 2020, but increased by 5.9 percent and 10.3 percent, respectively, in 2021. Unemployment claims and unemployment have fallen since the beginning of 2022, while employment has also risen. DEW implemented several programs to help the people affected. The effects of the pandemic are slowly diminishing.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic overwhelmed the state, the nation, and the world in 2020, and its effect will be felt for some time. South Carolina's economy rebounded well from conditions in 2020, moving into 2021. The S. C. Department of Commerce announced that the state won 153 economic development projects accounting for \$5.7 billion in capital investments with over 18,300 new jobs.

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 Division 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 several measures that illuminate several aspects of the state's economy. The following section presents an overview of GDP for the state and its industries. The state's personal consumption along with foreign trade of the state continues in the next section, followed by industry employment and wages, population data and demographic characteristics. A detailed discussion of the state's labor force follows.

Statewide current occupational employment and wages, long term employment projections, in-demand job skills and knowledge, top in-demand occupations, and labor supply-demand analyses, form the next section. A brief narrative 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.

S.C. Department of Commerce, 2021 Recruitment Overview:

[https://www.sccommerce.com/sites/default/files/2022-01/2021RecruitmentOverview\\_FINAL\\_0.pdf](https://www.sccommerce.com/sites/default/files/2022-01/2021RecruitmentOverview_FINAL_0.pdf)



# SOUTH CAROLINA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

South Carolina's economy has continued to expand over the past several years. **Figure 1** displays the state's Gross Domestic Product from 2018 to 2021 and the percent gain for each year. By 2021, South Carolina had a \$270 billion economy, which has continued to have strong growth.

**FIGURE 1: SOUTH CAROLINA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, 2018-2021**

Gross Domestic Product (millions of chained 2012 U.S. dollars)				Percent Change		
2018	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
\$207,772.7	\$212,482.8	\$208,480.5	\$220,689.0	2.3%	-1.9%	5.9%

Gross Domestic Product (millions of current U.S. dollars)				Percent Change		
2018	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
\$235,665.3	\$244,662.3	\$244,881.7	\$270,079.0	4.7%	0.1%	10.3%

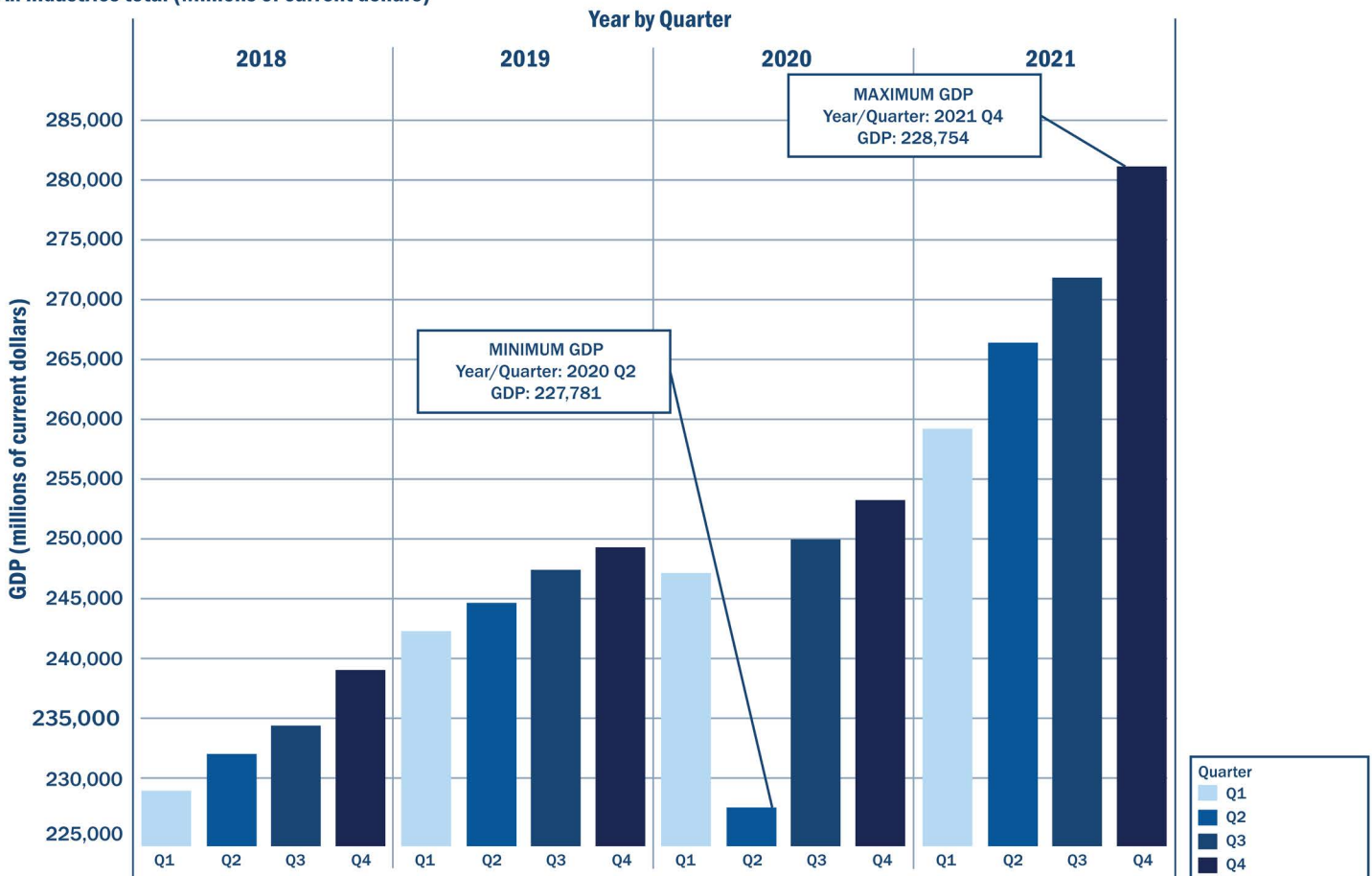
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis



**Figure 2** shows South Carolina's GDP in current dollars broken down by quarter from 2018-2021. The annotations show where S.C.'s economy had the highest and lowest GDP, Q4 2021 was the highest at \$281 billion and Q2 2020 was the lowest at \$227 billion. Note that the only two declines in GDP were seen in the first half of 2020 during the initial wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**FIGURE 2: SOUTH CAROLINA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP), 2018-2021**

**South Carolina Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**  
All industries total (Millions of current dollars)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

To show the underlying trends on a more detailed level, **Figure 3** presents the real gross domestic product on an industry basis. This is an inflation-adjusted measure that makes seeing a trend easier. The table shows an impressive growth overall of 5.9 percent from 2020 to 2021. The top industry in 2021 was Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate, followed by Manufacturing. Government was the third largest during both years. There were only three industries showing a decrease in output, those being Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting; Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction, and Utilities.

FIGURE 3: SOUTH CAROLINA REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) 2020 TO 2021 COMPARISON

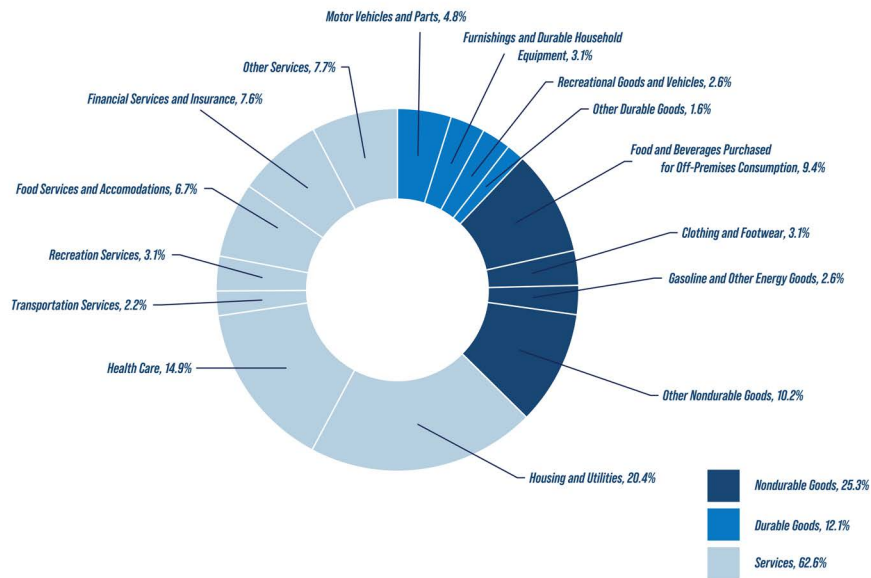
Description	2020	2021	Percent Change
All Industry Total	\$208,481	\$220,689	5.9%
Private Industries	\$177,467	\$189,053	6.5%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$1,337	\$1,330	-0.5%
Mining, Quarrying, And Oil and Gas Extraction	\$546	\$529	-3.1%
Utilities	\$4,897	\$4,244	-13.3%
Construction	\$9,028	\$9,096	0.8%
Manufacturing	\$32,060	\$34,840	8.7%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	\$18,987	\$20,937	10.3%
Nondurable Goods Manufacturing	\$13,073	\$13,907	6.4%
Wholesale Trade	\$12,980	\$13,397	3.2%
Retail Trade	\$15,313	\$15,314	0.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$4,729	\$4,994	5.6%
Information	\$8,450	\$10,068	19.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$38,778	\$41,201	6.2%
Finance, Insurance	\$9,414	\$10,398	10.5%
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	\$29,353	\$30,752	4.8%
Professional and Business Services	\$23,315	\$25,753	10.5%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	\$12,217	\$13,168	7.8%
Management Of Companies and Enterprises	\$3,260	\$3,415	4.7%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	\$8,019	\$9,296	15.9%
Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance	\$15,190	\$16,296	7.3%
Educational Services	\$1,385	\$1,420	2.5%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$13,830	\$14,911	7.8%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services	\$7,268	\$8,741	20.3%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$972	\$1,179	21.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$6,291	\$7,556	20.1%
Other Services (Except Government and Government Enterprises)	\$4,221	\$4,366	3.4%
Government and Government Enterprises	\$31,065	\$31,745	2.2%

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)

# SOUTH CAROLINA'S PERSONAL CONSUMPTION

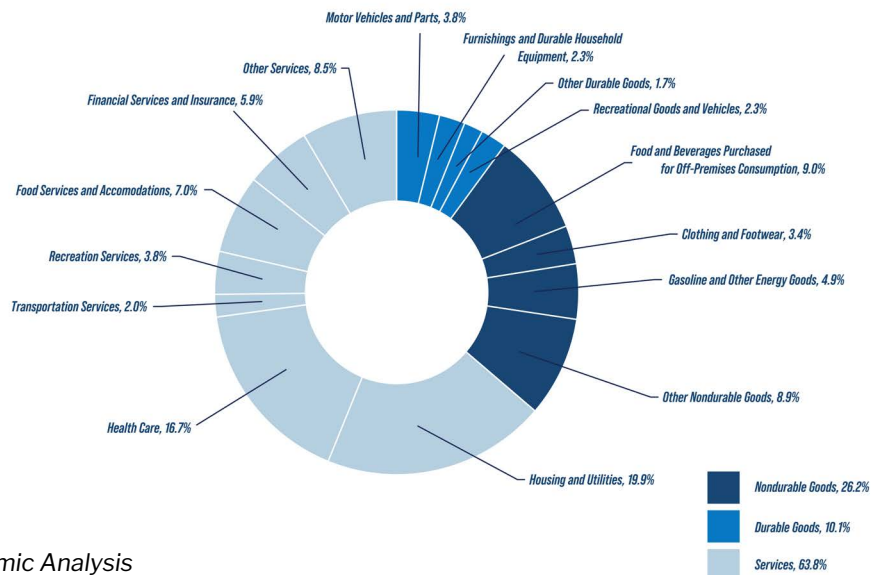
An important figure to many residents is the distribution of personal consumption. This figure can tell citizens what industries are being impacted by inflation within the economy and the overall health of an economy. Consumption can be separated into three categories: Nondurable Goods, Durable Goods, and Services. **Figure 4 and 5** track the changes in South Carolina's personal consumption expenditures from the time period 2010-2020.

**FIGURE 4: SOUTH CAROLINA PERSONAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURES, 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

**FIGURE 5: SOUTH CAROLINA PERSONAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURES, 2010**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

In both Figures, the two largest statistical categories are Housing and Utilities and Healthcare. The combined percentage for these categories is 35.3 percent in 2020 and 36.6 percent in 2010. The expenditure on Gasoline and Other Energy Goods had a large decrease over the decade going from 4.9 percent to 2.6 percent, a drop of 47 percent. In contrast, the expenditure on Motor Vehicles and Parts increased over the decade from 3.8 percent to 4.8 percent, an increase of 26 percent. Throughout the ten-year period, the percent of personal consumption expenditure spent on Financial Services and Insurance has increased from 5.9 percent to 7.6 percent. Furnishings and Durable Household Equipment has increased from 2.3 percent to 3.1 percent.

## FOREIGN TRADE

South Carolina has had a significant decline in their trade exports as shown by **Figure 6**.

NAICS		FIGURE 6: SOUTH CAROLINA'S TOP 10 EXPORT INDUSTRIES				
CODE	Industry	2018	2019	2020	2021	% of Total
	Grand Total	\$34,627	\$41,461	\$30,291	\$29,656	100%
336	Transportation Equipment	\$18,799	\$25,225	\$15,931	\$13,965	47.1%
325	Chemicals	\$2,920	\$3,103	\$2,954	\$3,472	11.7%
326	Plastics & Rubber Products	\$2,370	\$2,500	\$2,238	\$2,475	8.3%
333	Machinery, Except Electrical	\$2,137	\$1,917	\$1,844	\$1,947	6.6%
334	Computer & Electronic Products	\$1,390	\$1,509	\$1,298	\$1,156	3.9%
332	Fabricated Metal Products, Nesoi	\$1,085	\$1,209	\$973	\$1,115	3.8%
335	Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components	\$1,323	\$1,472	\$1,100	\$992	3.3%
322	Paper	\$1,206	\$1,061	\$845	\$900	3.0%
311	Food & Kindred Products	\$923	\$975	\$851	\$824	2.8%
313	Textiles & Fabrics	\$678	\$702	\$550	\$680	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, USA Trade

Total exports of \$29.7 billion dollars in 2021 represented 11 percent of the state's GDP as shown in **Figure 1**. Transportation Equipment is 47 percent of the total value of exports with Chemicals and Plastics and Rubber Products following. All of the top export industries were in Manufacturing, highlighting the sector's value to the state. Transportation Equipment continues to remain the top export industry for South Carolina; however, Transportation Equipment decreases over the past years contributes to the majority of South Carolina's decrease in total trade exports.

China is the state's top export partner with \$4.6 billion dollars in trade in 2021. **Figure 7** shows that Germany, Canada and Mexico are leading partners as well. Foreign exports decreased by over 2 percent in 2021.

**FIGURE 7: SOUTH CAROLINA'S TOP 10 EXPORT PARTNERS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS**

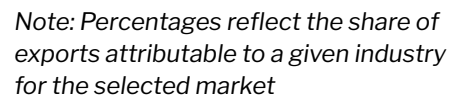
Area	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change (2019-2021)	% of Total (2021)
China	\$5,637	\$6,495	\$3,887	\$4,602	-29.1%	15.5%
Germany	\$3,768	\$4,487	\$4,081	\$4,588	2.3%	15.5%
Canada	\$3,979	\$4,010	\$4,010	\$3,844	-4.1%	13.0%
Mexico	\$2,770	\$2,197	\$1,813	\$2,117	-3.6%	7.1%
Belgium	\$764	\$1,286	\$1,414	\$1,486	15.6%	5.0%
South Korea	\$664	\$755	\$1,160	\$1,396	84.9%	4.7%
Japan	\$1,636	\$2,267	\$1,177	\$1,025	-54.8%	3.5%
United Kingdom	\$2,416	\$2,069	\$1,372	\$985	-52.4%	3.3%
Australia	\$844	\$944	\$843	\$780	-17.4%	2.6%
India	\$442	\$595	\$612	\$649	9.1%	2.2%
<b>World</b>	<b>\$34,627</b>	<b>\$41,461</b>	<b>\$30,291</b>	<b>\$29,656</b>	<b>-28.5%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

South Korea has had the largest percent change in the time period 2019-2021 at 84.9 percent. South Carolina's top two export partners are also the largest receivers of South Carolina's Transportation Equipment manufactured within the state. Canada and Mexico are also important export partners to South Carolina. The biggest decreases are from Japan at -54.8 percent and United Kingdom at -52.4 percent.



- FIGURE 8: SOUTH CAROLINA'S TOP 10 EXPORT MARKETS BY INDUSTRY, 2021**



As seen in **Figure 7**, the top 10 importing countries from South Carolina includes multiple regions. **Figure 8** divides South Carolina's top 10 export partners into the classification of exports. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a large decrease in South Carolina's exports in 2020, and while segments of the world continue to recover, multiple countries have returned or exceeded their pre-pandemic imports from South Carolina. South Korea, India, Belgium, and Germany have eclipsed their 2019 pre-pandemic exports in Transportation Equipment from South Carolina with Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Parts consisting of a large majority of the state's Transportation Equipment exports to these countries.

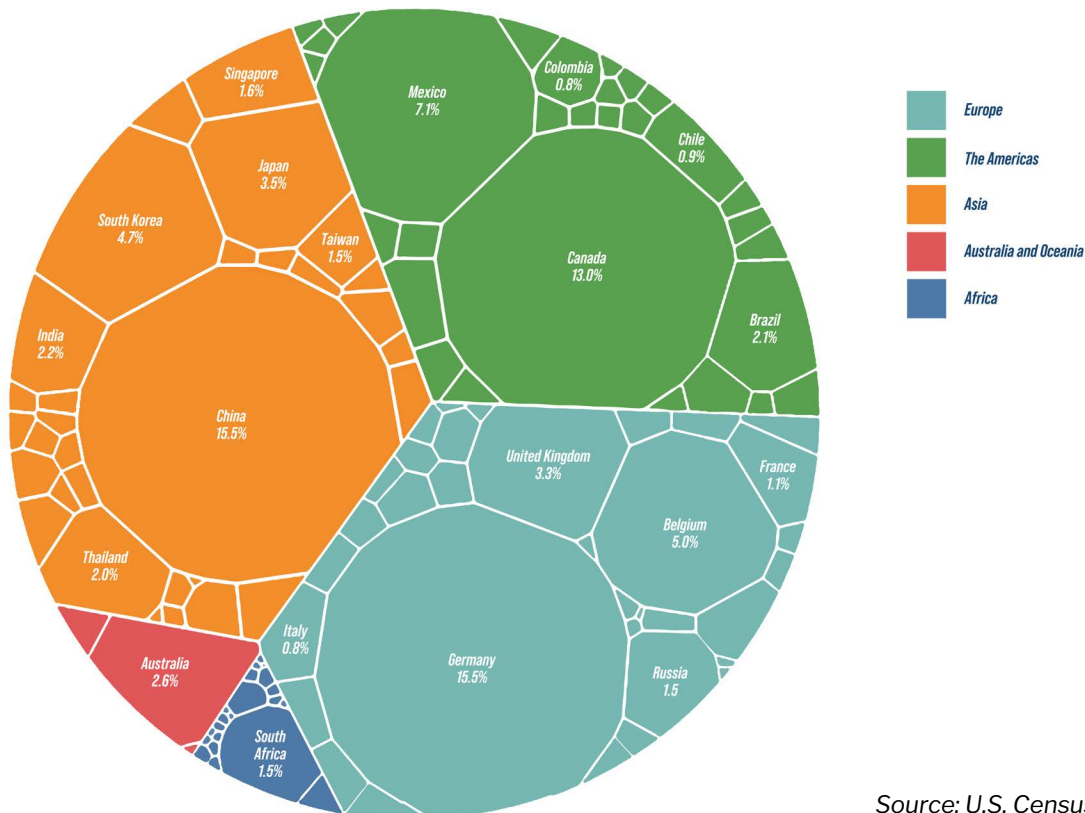
Plastics & Rubber Products are a significant export from South Carolina as well. Canada is the top importer of Plastics & Rubber Products from South Carolina at \$667.5 million in 2021, Mexico is second with \$393.2 million, and Australia followed at \$299.7 million. Mexico, Germany, Belgium, and China are examples of the multitude of countries which have increased their imports from South Carolina from 2019 to 2021. Countries which have dropped considerably, such as Japan at -54.8 percent, previously imported large amounts of Aerospace Products & Parts, which has fallen considerably in the past years.

Chemicals also made up a significant portion of imports across the globe from South Carolina. China, Canada, Belgium, and India were the top importers of Chemical products from South Carolina. In 2021, China's importation of Chemicals accounted for 8.6 percent, or \$394.0 million, of their total imports from South Carolina. Canada's importation of Chemicals consisted of 9.8 percent, or \$378.6 million, of their total imports from South Carolina. Belgium, the only European country in the top four, was just behind Canada with 24.7 percent, or \$366.9 million, of their total imports from South Carolina consisting of Chemicals. India rounded out the top four with 45.9 percent of their imports, or \$298.2 million, with products from South Carolina consisting of Chemicals.

## DID YOU KNOW?

1. South Carolina exports to every European country **except** Andorra.
2. South Carolina exports to every country over 5,000,000 in population except **North Korea, South Sudan, and Syria**.
3. South Carolina's top export to 37 countries is **transportation equipment**. **Food & kindred products** are second at 30 countries and plastics & rubber products follows at 28 countries.
4. South Carolina is the top U.S. state exporter of transportation equipment to **Europe** and the second largest to **Asia**.

FIGURE 9: SOUTH CAROLINA'S EXPORTS BY REGION AND COUNTRY, 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, USA Trade

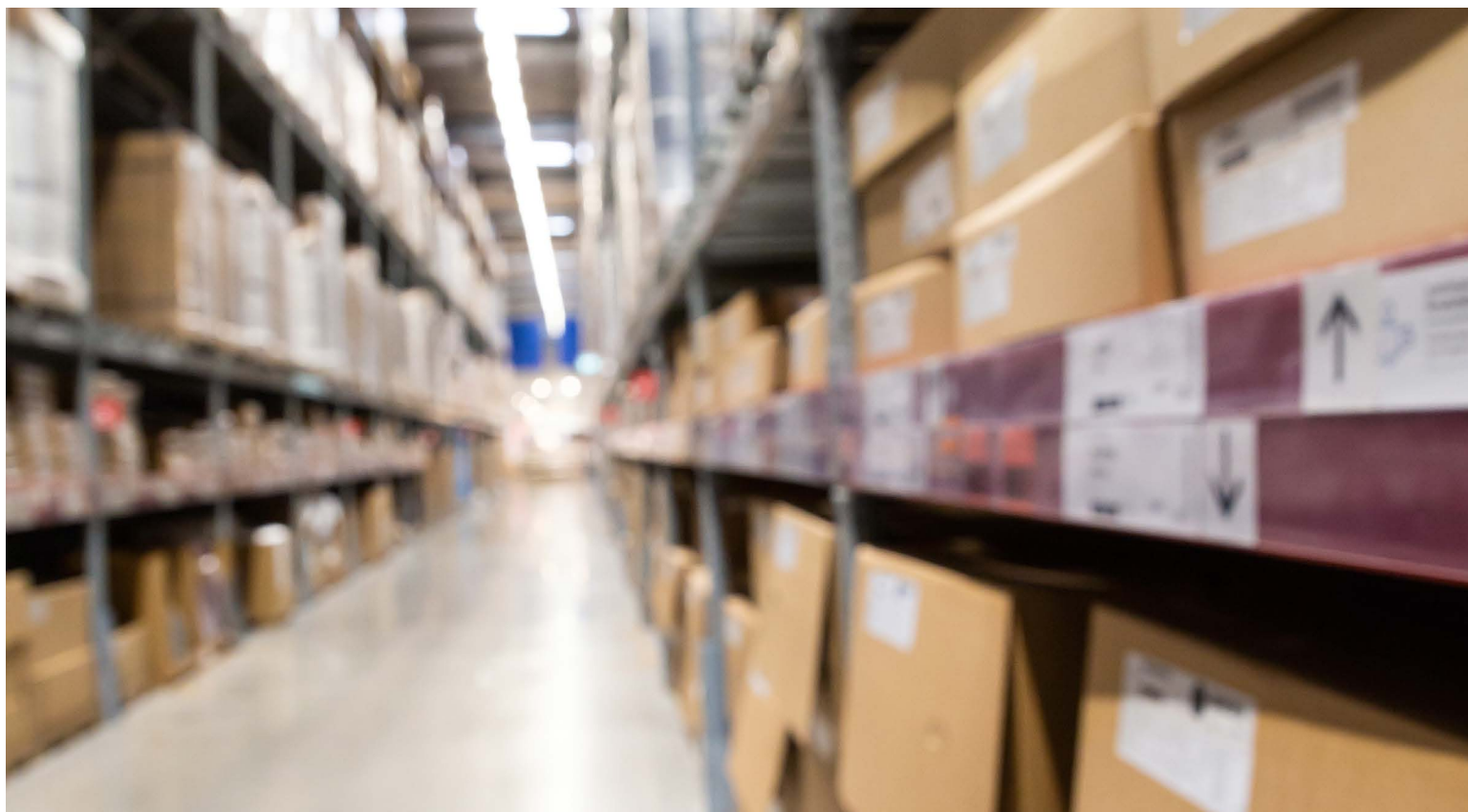


As shown by **Figure 9**, South Carolina is involved in trade with almost every country but also has certain countries which account for a majority of the state's exports. Germany, China, and Canada account for 44 percent of South Carolina international exports. Europe, Asia, and The Americas are the most important regions for exports, but South Carolina does export significant amounts to countries within Australia and Oceania; and Africa.

As referenced by **Figure 6**, Transportation Equipment is a major component of South Carolina exports. South Carolina exports to China and Germany are dominated by the Transportation Equipment industry. Of the \$4.6 billion exported to China in 2021, 65.5 percent, or \$3.0 billion was Transportation Equipment. Similarly, of the \$4.6 billion exported to Germany in 2021, 85.6 percent, or \$3.9 billion was Transportation Equipment. Countries in which South Carolina's main export is Transportation Equipment include United Arab Emirates, Estonia, Colombia, and Russia.

Important aspects of international trade are the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Free Trade Agreements involve the decreasing of trade restrictions between countries in order to support local industries and expand international trade. In total, the US has FTAs with 20 countries. An important multilateral trade agreement the USA is involved in is USMCA, which includes US, Mexico, and Canada, as shown by **Figure 9**. About 16.7 percent of South Carolina's international exports are sent to Mexico and Canada. Another important FTA is the CAFTA-DR (Dominican Republic-Central America FTA), which includes countries such as the United States, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

While Textiles & Fabrics exports have decreased over the past years, they still remain a significant export to South American countries. South Carolina exported \$159.6 million in Textiles & Fabrics to Honduras in 2021 and \$35.8 million to Nicaragua. Textiles & Fabrics were the top export from South Carolina to countries such as Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.



# SOUTH CAROLINA INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

South Carolina had more than 2.093 million wage and salary jobs in 2021, within 152,000 business establishments, with an average weekly wage of \$1,006. **Figure 10** displays the employment and wages for the state's industry sectors.

**FIGURE 10: SOUTH CAROLINA INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES, 2021**

Industry Code	Industry Title	No. of Establishments	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage	No. of Establishments Growth	Average Employment Growth	Average Weekly Wage Growth
10	All Industry Total	152,218	2,093,555	\$1,006	4.4%	3.2%	5.6%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,261	10,283	\$825	2.4%	-2.2%	6.5%
21	Mining, Quarrying, And Oil and Gas Extraction	154	1,957	\$1,435	6.9%	1.5%	5.6%
22	Utilities	598	14,302	\$1,725	15.9%	-2.2%	-0.9%
23	Construction	13,444	104,622	\$1,172	0.7%	0.9%	5.2%
31-33	Manufacturing	7,100	244,919	\$1,239	6.7%	0.2%	4.3%
42	Wholesale Trade	9,149	74,591	\$1,521	0.7%	2.8%	6.4%
44-45	Retail Trade	18,731	253,151	\$652	1.8%	2.5%	7.9%
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	4,429	85,264	\$960	5.8%	7.7%	4.5%
51	Information	3,931	29,517	\$1,568	19.1%	9.8%	15.5%
52	Finance and Insurance	9,121	74,174	\$1,610	7.1%	3.5%	5.3%
53	Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	7,062	31,921	\$1,075	7.0%	3.7%	7.8%
54	Professional and Technical Services	22,676	107,583	\$1,583	10.2%	4.4%	5.0%
55	Management Of Companies and Enterprises	1,187	24,523	\$1,797	7.5%	1.0%	4.8%
56	Administrative and Waste Management	9,427	166,624	\$780	2.8%	6.6%	7.4%
61	Educational Services	3,121	166,047	\$952	5.0%	0.4%	3.9%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	14,706	280,005	\$1,103	4.2%	1.5%	6.1%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,296	29,989	\$461	2.9%	13.5%	2.4%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	11,593	217,059	\$423	0.7%	7.8%	14.3%
81	Other Services (Except Public Administration)	10,402	51,463	\$780	1.2%	3.5%	6.4%
92	Public Administration	1,834	115,508	\$994	0.9%	-1.6%	4.9%

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

Health Care and Social Assistance had the highest employment with 280,000 jobs, followed by Retail Trade with 253,000 jobs and Manufacturing at almost 245,000. Of the 152,000 business establishments in the state, 22,600 were engaged in the Professional and Technical Services industry, 18,700 were in Retail Trade and 14,700 were in Health Care and Social Assistance. The highest wages were found in Management of Companies with a weekly wage of \$1,797, followed by Utilities with a wage of \$1,725 and Finance and Insurance at \$1,610. Accommodations and Food Services had the lowest average weekly wages at \$423.

In terms of percent change from a year ago, the state's average employment increased by 3.2 percent. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation employment grew the most at 13.5 percent, while Utilities and Agriculture, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction declined by 2.2 percent. Information grew the most in establishments at 19.1 percent, with no industries having a decline in the number of establishments. Average weekly wages overall grew by 5.6 percent over the past year. Information increased the most at 15.5 percent, followed by Accommodation and Food Services with growth of 14.3 percent and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing with 7.8 percent. Utilities was the only industry to have a decrease in average weekly wages, declining by 0.9 percent.

Average weekly wage for all Industries grew 5.6 percent in 2021 with most of the growth coming in quarter four. The average weekly wage was \$986 in quarter three and grew to \$1,101 in quarter four, showing a 10.4 percent growth.

## 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 11** displays such information for the state over the five-year period of 2016-2020. 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 2020, 89.4 percent of the population aged 25 and older had a high school education and 31.7 percent held a bachelor's degree or higher. The increasingly educated population bodes well for the state economically.

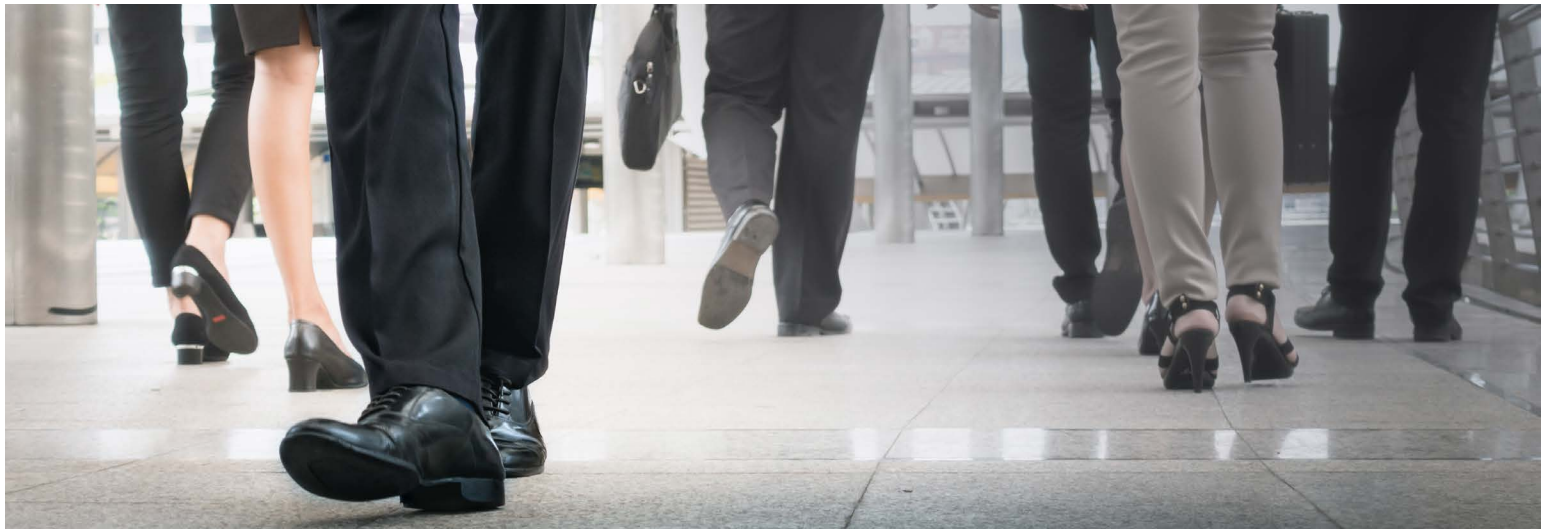


FIGURE 11: SOUTH CAROLINA POPULATION STATISTICS, 2016-2020

Statewide	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Educational Attainment</b>					
	3,626,831	3,563,204	3,492,355	3,443,851	3,388,476
Less than 9th Grade	3.0%	3.7%	3.6%	4.0%	4.4%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	7.6%	7.9%	8.0%	8.6%	9.0%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	27.7%	28.5%	29.9%	29.5%	29.0%
Some College, No Degree	20.0%	20.4%	20.1%	20.3%	21.0%
Associate Degree	9.9%	9.9%	10.2%	9.6%	9.4%
Bachelor's Degree	19.3%	18.4%	18.0%	17.6%	17.4%
Graduate or Professional Degree	12.4%	11.2%	10.4%	10.4%	9.8%
High School Graduate or Higher	89.4%	88.3%	88.4%	87.4%	86.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	31.7%	29.6%	28.3%	28.0%	27.2%
<b>Veteran Status</b>					
Civilian Population 18 Years and Older	4,056,696	3,999,640	3,948,709	3,890,364	3,828,451
Civilian Veterans	8.5%	8.9%	9.2%	9.3%	9.6%
<b>Disability Status of the Civilian Noninstitutional Population</b>					
Total Civilian Noninstitutional Population	5,111,864	5,048,513	4,990,240	4,928,260	4,861,188
With a Disability	14.8%	14.2%	14.4%	14.8%	15.2%
Under 18 Years	1,122,894	1,108,932	1,102,091	1,099,204	1,097,385
With a Disability	5.3%	4.3%	4.4%	4.9%	4.9%
18 to 64 Years	3,122,382	3,022,520	3,006,493	2,980,713	2,951,505
With a Disability	11.7%	11.8%	12.2%	12.6%	13.2%
65 Years and Over	972,764	917,061	881,656	848,343	812,298
With a Disability	34.3%	34.0%	34.3%	35.0%	36.2%
<b>Residence 1 Year Ago</b>					
Population 1 Year and Over	5,165,569	5,092,727	5,029,034	4,966,211	4,903,788
Same House	87.3%	86.7%	85.7%	85.5%	85.2%
Different House in the U.S.	12.3%	12.9%	13.9%	14.1%	14.4%
Same County	5.7%	6.3%	7.1%	7.4%	7.7%
Different County	6.6%	6.6%	6.8%	6.6%	6.8%
Same State	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%
Different State	3.4%	3.5%	3.7%	3.4%	3.4%
Abroad	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-Year Estimate, 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 8.5 percent. The percentage of South Carolinians with a disability among the civilian noninstitutional population increased, for the first time since 2016, over the past year to 14.8 percent. Those over the age of 65 with a disability, declined almost 2 percentage points, during the four-year period, to 34.3 percent. The table demonstrates a consistent trend of citizens staying within the same residence, with the population staying within the same house increasing to 87.3 percent in 2020.

Over the recent past, South Carolina's population, aged 18 and above, has been on the rise. From 2016 to 2020, the state increased by more than 238,000 people, or 7.0 percent, rising from 3,828,000 people to 4,056,000, 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 12** illustrates the movement of the labor force (left hand scale), employed (left hand scale), and unemployed (right hand scale) from 2018 to 2021.

Over the period 2018-2021, the labor market has improved drastically. The labor force has grown by 112,000 people over that time, reaching 2.371 million by December 2021.

**FIGURE 12: SOUTH CAROLINA LABOR FORCE, 2018-2021**





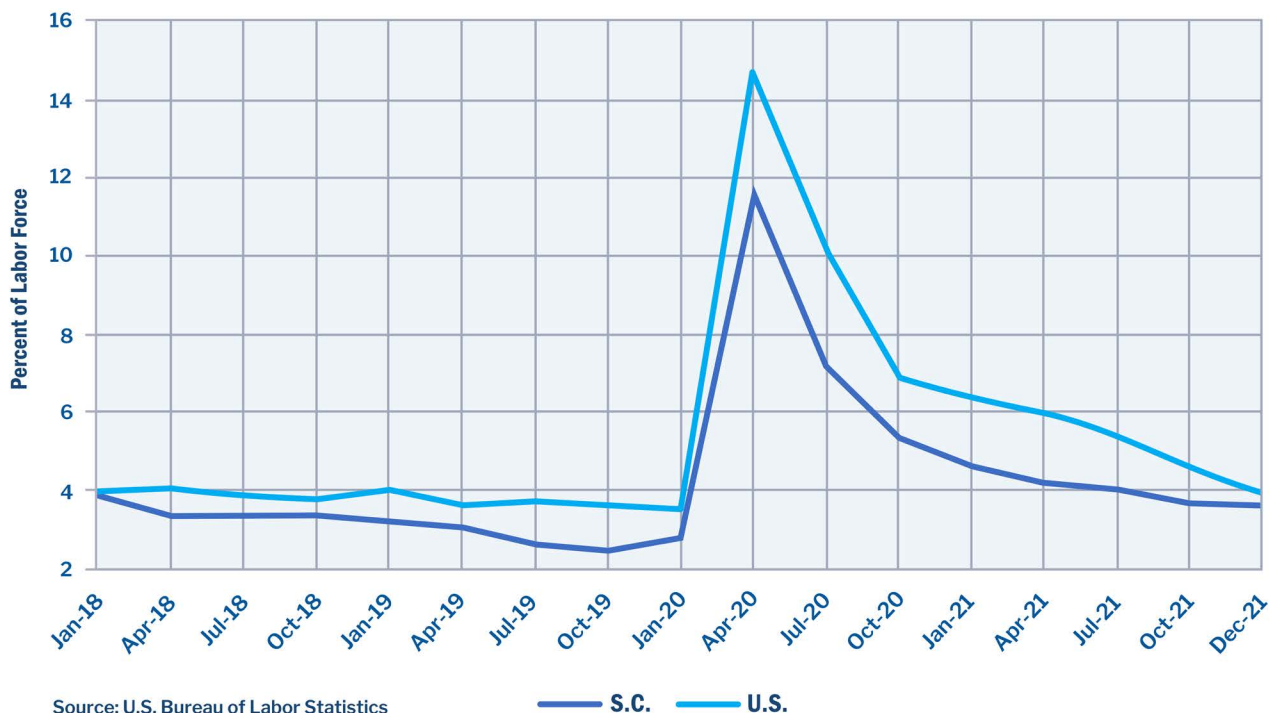
Over time employment has risen, climbing by 115,000 people to 2.287 million people in December 2021, a 5.3 percent increase from January 2018. Unemployment has fallen only 2,600 people over the four-year period from 87,840 in January 2018 to 84,737 in December 2021, a decline of 3.5 percent. The peak unemployment during the period was 268,537 people in April 2020, with the low being 56,876 in September 2019.

## Unemployment Rate Trends

The unemployment rate is the percent of the labor force that is unemployed. In January 2018, the rate stood at 3.9 percent, and by the end of 2021, the rate had dropped to 3.6 percent. In September 2019, South Carolina matched its lowest ever unemployment level of 2.4 percent. Likewise, the U.S. unemployment rate remained around the same level, changing from 4.0 percent to 3.9 percent over the same period. During this four-year period, the high was reached in April 2020 with a staggering 11.6 percent unemployment rate in South Carolina, compared to a 14.7 percent rate nationally. **Figure 13** highlights the movement of the unemployment rates over the recent four-year period.

South Carolina's unemployment rate remained on a consistent downward trend from January 2018 to September 2019. The unemployment rate then peaked at 11.6 percent in April 2020 and since then has been slowly recovering and fallen back down to a 3.6 percent unemployment rate.

**FIGURE 13: SOUTH CAROLINA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE COMPARED TO NATIONAL**



## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

South Carolina had 2.067 million wage and salary occupational employees in 2021 with an average hourly mean wage of \$22.83. The state had a decrease of 40,000 workers since 2019, but an increase of \$1.50 in average hourly mean wage and \$1.23 in average hourly median wage. **Figure 14** summarizes more than 800 detailed occupations into major occupational groups and presents employment and average wage information.

**FIGURE 14: SOUTH CAROLINA OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES, 2021**

Occupation Code	Occupational Title	Total Employment	Hourly Mean Wage	Hourly Median Wage
00-0000	All Occupations	2,067,330	\$22.83	\$17.91
11-0000	Management Occupations	133,230	\$49.69	\$44.43
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	88,710	\$34.35	\$29.80
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	41,420	\$39.47	\$37.26
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	39,230	\$38.91	\$36.85
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	10,790	\$31.72	\$28.48
21-0000	Community and Social Services Occupations	31,010	\$21.43	\$18.68
23-0000	Legal Occupations	14,540	\$38.31	\$28.65
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	104,880	\$24.71	\$23.20
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	19,270	\$23.66	\$19.44
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	128,190	\$38.69	\$29.71
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	75,280	\$14.44	\$13.85
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	45,690	\$19.84	\$18.24
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	196,760	\$12.05	\$10.90
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	64,960	\$13.52	\$13.17
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	39,960	\$13.79	\$29.71
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	212,830	\$18.10	\$13.77
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	287,600	\$18.44	\$17.54
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	3,530	\$18.27	\$16.64
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	80,820	\$21.37	\$18.53
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	89,240	\$22.68	\$21.95
51-0000	Production Occupations	178,130	\$19.97	\$18.05
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	201,250	\$17.28	\$14.73

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS), 2021

The Office and Administrative Support category had the highest occupational employment with 287,600 jobs, followed by Sales and Related Occupations with 212,800 and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations with 201,200 employees. The highest average hourly wages were found in Management occupations at \$49.69 per hour, Computer and Mathematical occupations at \$39.47 per hour, and Architecture and Engineering occupations at \$38.91 per hour. Food Preparation and Serving-Related occupations had the lowest average wage at \$12.05 per hour.

# STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

## *Industry Employment Projections*

**Figure 15** presents the latest available statewide industry employment projections over the 10-year period 2020-2030. Overall, all industries are projected to grow by 12.6 percent or by 261,000 jobs. Health Care and Social Assistance; Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services; and Accommodation and Food Services are each expected to increase employment by over 35,000 jobs. Utilities are projected to decline slightly.

In 2030, Health Care and Social Assistance will lead in industry employment, followed by Retail Trade and Manufacturing. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation is projected to grow the fastest at 27.1 percent, along with Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services at 22.5 percent, and Accommodation and Food Services at 22.3 percent.





FIGURE 15: SOUTH CAROLINA INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

Industry Code	Industry Title	Base Year Employment	Projected Year Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
00-0000	All Industries Total	2,080,800	2,342,494	261,694	12.6%
11-0000	Architecture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	13,152	13,316	164	1.2%
21-0000	Mining	1,926	2,005	79	4.1%
22-0000	Utilities	11,252	10,955	-297	-2.6%
23-0000	Construction	103,662	108,160	4,498	4.3%
31-0000	Manufacturing	244,513	261,222	16,709	6.8%
42-0000	Wholesale Trade	72,541	81,779	9,238	12.7%
44-0000	Retail Trade	246,111	263,695	17,584	7.1%
48-0000	Transportation and Warehousing	72,388	86,513	14,125	19.5%
51-0000	Information	24,745	29,152	4,407	17.8%
52-0000	Finance and Insurance	71,570	79,773	8,203	11.5%
53-0000	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	30,056	33,608	3,552	11.8%
54-0000	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	101,812	114,864	13,052	12.8%
55-0000	Management of Companies and Enterprises	24,294	26,185	1,891	7.8%
56-0000	Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	155,766	190,870	35,104	22.5%
61-0000	Educational Services	165,115	180,610	15,495	9.4%
62-0000	Health Care and Social Assistance	256,890	299,950	43,060	16.8%
71-0000	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	25,769	32,740	6,971	27.1%
72-0000	Accommodation and Food Services	201,229	246,131	44,902	22.3%
81-0000	Other Services (Except Government)	97,553	109,959	12,406	12.7%
92-0000	Government	160,456	171,007	10,551	6.6%

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 2020-2030. **Figure 16** highlights the projections by major occupation group. Office and Administrative Support occupations are projected to have the highest number of employees in 2030 with 300,000, followed by Sales and Related occupations with 259,000, and Food Preparation and Serving Related occupations with 234,000. Transportation and Material Moving occupations are expected to employ 228,000 in 2030.

Overall, the state is projected to have more than 286,000 annual job openings in all occupations. Food Preparation and Serving Related occupations are expected to have the most openings at 42,000 per year over the 10-year period, followed by Sales and Related occupations with nearly 35,000 openings, and Office and Administrative Support Occupations with 33,500 openings. Transportation and Material Moving occupations is expected to have nearly 30,000 annual job openings.

**FIGURE 16: SOUTH CAROLINA OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030**

SOC Code	SOC Title	Base Employment	Projection Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Annual Job Openings
00-0000	All Occupations	2,199,746	2,463,016	263,270	12.0%	286,596
11-0000	Management Occupations	107,340	122,136	14,796	13.8%	10,568
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	96,426	110,123	13,697	14.2%	10,370
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	47,453	55,770	8,317	17.5%	4,429
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	41,723	46,697	4,974	11.9%	3,671
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	12,820	14,076	1,256	9.8%	1,300
21-0000	Community and Social Services Occupations	30,255	34,153	3,898	12.9%	3,623
23-0000	Legal Occupations	16,048	18,125	2,077	12.9%	1,435
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	108,158	120,313	12,155	11.2%	11,075
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	24,846	28,344	3,498	14.1%	3,068
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	131,074	149,535	18,461	14.1%	9,617
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	78,846	97,002	18,156	23.0%	12,368
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	48,424	56,171	7,747	16.0%	6,387
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	194,239	234,618	40,379	20.8%	42,071
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	83,393	95,118	11,725	14.1%	12,704
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	57,855	69,367	11,512	19.9%	10,358
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	241,778	259,857	18,079	7.5%	34,819
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	291,901	300,198	8,297	2.8%	33,500
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	9,532	9,628	96	1.0%	1,482
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	99,532	106,676	7,144	7.2%	10,842
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	93,730	105,521	11,791	12.6%	10,603
51-0000	Production Occupations	189,685	201,541	11,856	6.3%	22,411
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	194,688	228,047	33,359	17.1%	29,899

Source: DEW, Employment Projections Program

## 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 17** identifies the number of projected annual job openings over the period 2020-2030 by Occupational Information Network job skill for South Carolina statewide.

**FIGURE 17: SOUTH CAROLINA PROJECTED ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS BY JOB SKILL NEEDED**

Skill	Average Annual Job Openings	Skill	Average Annual Job Openings
Critical Thinking	220,474	Quality Control Analysis	27,687
Active Listening	208,738	Negotiation	23,206
Speaking	201,735	Mathematics	21,816
Reading Comprehension	177,107	Management of Personnel Resources	20,715
Monitoring	176,102	Troubleshooting	15,434
Coordination	165,198	Learning Strategies	14,511
Social Perceptiveness	147,721	Instructing	14,341
Service Orientation	117,584	Repairing	13,103
Time Management	96,934	Equipment Maintenance	13,032
Writing	82,112	Systems Analysis	4,776
Judgment and Decision Making	79,054	Systems Evaluation	3,384
Active Learning	59,442	Operations Analysis	3,167
Persuasion	53,155	Installation	2,094
Operation Monitoring	48,876	Science	2,010
Operation and Control	45,641	Management of Financial Resources	983
Complex Problem Solving	27,772	Equipment Selection	185

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

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

- Critical Thinking
- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Reading Comprehension

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 Science, 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 18** identifies the number of projected annual job openings over the period 2020-2030 by O\*NET job knowledge for the state.

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 relate to more specific occupations.

FIGURE 18: SOUTH CAROLINA'S PROJECTED ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS BY JOB KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

Knowledge	Average Annual Job Openings	Knowledge	Average Annual Job Openings
English Language	214,094	Design	21,212
Customer and Personal Service	211,083	Building and Construction	19,453
Mathematics	161,889	Law and Government	19,429
Education and Training	138,376	Economics and Accounting	14,781
Administration and Management	124,791	Sociology and Anthropology	14,392
Computers and Electronics	122,839	Biology	13,134
Clerical	96,126	Therapy and Counseling	12,360
Public Safety and Security	88,261	Medicine and Dentistry	11,850
Mechanical	68,686	Physics	8,478
Sales and Marketing	67,519	Geography	7,999
Psychology	58,199	Communications and Media	6,463
Production and Processing	57,890	Philosophy and Theology	5,856
Transportation	31,770	History and Archeology	2,081
Personnel and Human Resources	31,020	Telecommunications	1,955
Engineering and Technology	28,047	Fine Arts	1,015
Food Production	26,434	Foreign Language	139
Chemistry	25,000		

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

## 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 19** lists those top occupations that employers request in job advertisements in the state in 2021. Other top occupations serve the manufacturing and tourist industries in South Carolina, such as truck drivers, maintenance and repair workers, cashiers and maids.

FIGURE 19: SOUTH CAROLINA'S TOP 25 IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS, 2021

Occupation Code	Occupational Title	S.C. 2021 Average Hourly Wage
29-1141	Registered Nurses	\$33.45
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	\$12.99
41-1011	First-Line Supervisor of Retail Sales Workers	\$19.87
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	\$16.83
41-4012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific products	\$31.48
11-9199	Managers, All Other	\$53.37
53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$22.70
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, including Fast Food	\$12.11
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$15.43
49-9071	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$19.77
15-1199	Computer Occupations, All Other	\$46.25
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, medical, and Executive	\$17.98
11-9111	Medical and Health Services Managers	\$53.99
37-2011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$12.05
15-1132	Software Developers, Applications	\$49.34
43-5081	Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	\$14.30
11-9051	Food Service Managers	\$27.95
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	\$45.53
31-1014	Nursing Assistants	\$14.07
41-2011	Cashiers	\$10.94
37-2012	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$11.64
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	\$10.57
29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$22.34
39-9021	Personal Care Aides	\$11.39
33-9032	Security Guards	\$14.39

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



# 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 National Center of Education Statistics, 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, 2020-2030, 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 2020 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. **Figure 20, 21, and 22** present tables highlighting the entire analysis.



FIGURE 20: SOUTH CAROLINA'S POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM COMPLETERS, 2020 (SUPPLY)

Career Cluster	Some College or Associates	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate	Total
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	153	426	64	7	650
Architecture & Construction	832	212	60	5	1,109
Art, Audio/Video Technology & Communications	234	2,326	147	28	2,735
Business Management & Administration	1,272	3,520	1,300	19	6,111
Education & Training	5,116	4,662	1,812	186	11,776
Finance	339	1,704	203	-	2,246
Government & Public Administration	-	917	122	10	1,049
Health Science	5,203	2,698	956	1,046	9,903
Hospitality & Tourism	262	506	54	17	839
Human Services	2,082	2,108	608	81	4,879
Information Technology	742	963	114	25	1,844
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	498	730	79	416	1,723
Manufacturing	2,611	17	-	-	2,628
Marketing	154	1,513	58	-	1,725
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics	673	6,639	923	331	8,566
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	775	48	7	-	830
Grand Total	20,946	28,989	6,507	2,171	58,613

Source: National Center of Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2020



FIGURE 21: SOUTH CAROLINA'S PROJECTED ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS, 2020-2030 (DEMAND)

Career Cluster	Some College or Associates	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate	Total
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	78	242	-	-	320
Architecture & Construction	802	1,488	-	-	2,290
Art, Audio/Video Technology & Communications	657	945	-	-	1,602
Business Management & Administration	2,508	9,473	-	-	11,981
Education & Training	2,372	7,018	1,633	1,424	12,447
Finance	8	4,450	-	-	4,458
Government & Public Administration	-	735	-	-	735
Health Science	8,992	4,402	979	1,061	15,434
Hospitality & Tourism	82	-	-	-	82
Human Services	1,591	1,424	484	89	3,588
Information Technology	1,050	3,177		-	4,227
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	1,543	65	-	566	2,174
Manufacturing	1,419		-	-	1,419
Marketing	-	2,610	-	-	2,610
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics	45	2,465	163	18	2,691
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	5,669	467	-	-	6,136
Grand Total	26,816	38,961	3,259	3,158	72,194

Source: DEW, Employment Projections Program, National Center of Education Statistics (NCES)

FIGURE 22: SOUTH CAROLINA'S LABOR SUPPLY GAP (LABOR SUPPLY - DEMAND)

Career Cluster	Some College or Associates	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctorate	Total
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	75	184	64	7	330
Architecture & Construction	30	-1,276	60	5	-1,181
Art, Audio/Video Technology & Communications	-423	1,381	147	28	1,133
Business Management & Administration	-1,236	-5,953	1,300	19	-5,870
Education & Training	2,744	-2,356	179	-1,238	-671
Finance	331	-2,746	203	0	-2,212
Government & Public Administration	0	182	122	10	314
Health Science	-3,789	-1,704	-23	-15	-5,531
Hospitality & Tourism	180	506	54	17	757
Human Services	491	684	124	-8	1,291
Information Technology	-308	-2,214	114	25	-2,383
Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security	-1,045	665	79	-150	-451
Manufacturing	1,192	17	0	0	1,209
Marketing	154	-1,097	58	0	-885
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics	628	4,174	760	313	5,875
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics	-4,894	-419	7	0	-5,306
Grand Total	-5,870	-9,972	3,248	-987	-13,581

Source: DEW

Several observations can be made concerning the results. There are more than 13,500 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 2,700 more openings than graduates at the Bachelor's degree level.
- In Health Science, there is a labor shortage at all levels of the educational spectrum. Openings below the bachelor's degree level account for a large portion of the gap.
- In Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics, there is a severe shortage below the Bachelor's degree level.

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.

## WANING IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Early statistics measuring its initial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic 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 dollars. By the first quarter of 2020 GDP had grown to \$259.6 billion in current dollar terms and \$217.3 billion in real terms as highlighted in **Figure 23**.

**FIGURE 23: SOUTH CAROLINA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AND QUARTERLY PERCENT CHANGE**

Description	2020: Q1	2020: Q2	2020: Q3	2020: Q4	2021: Q1	2021: Q2	2021: Q3	2021: Q4	2022: Q1
Current-Dollar GDP (millions of current dollars)	\$247,225	\$227,781	\$250,739	\$253,780	\$259,690	\$266,773	\$272,097	\$281,754	\$286,535
Real GDP (millions of chained 2012 dollars)	\$211,784	\$194,789	\$212,745	\$214,602	\$217,344	\$220,004	\$220,865	\$224,541	\$223,923
Real GDP is in millions of chained 2012 dollars. Calculations are preformed on unrounded data. Chained (2021) 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	2020: Q1	2020: Q2	2020: Q3	2020: Q4	2021: Q1	2021: Q2	2021: Q3	2021: Q4	2022: Q1
Current-Dollar GDP	-0.8	-7.9	10.1	1.2	2.3	2.7	2.0	3.5	1.7
Real GDP	-1.4	-8.0	9.2	0.9	1.3	1.2	0.4	1.7	-0.3

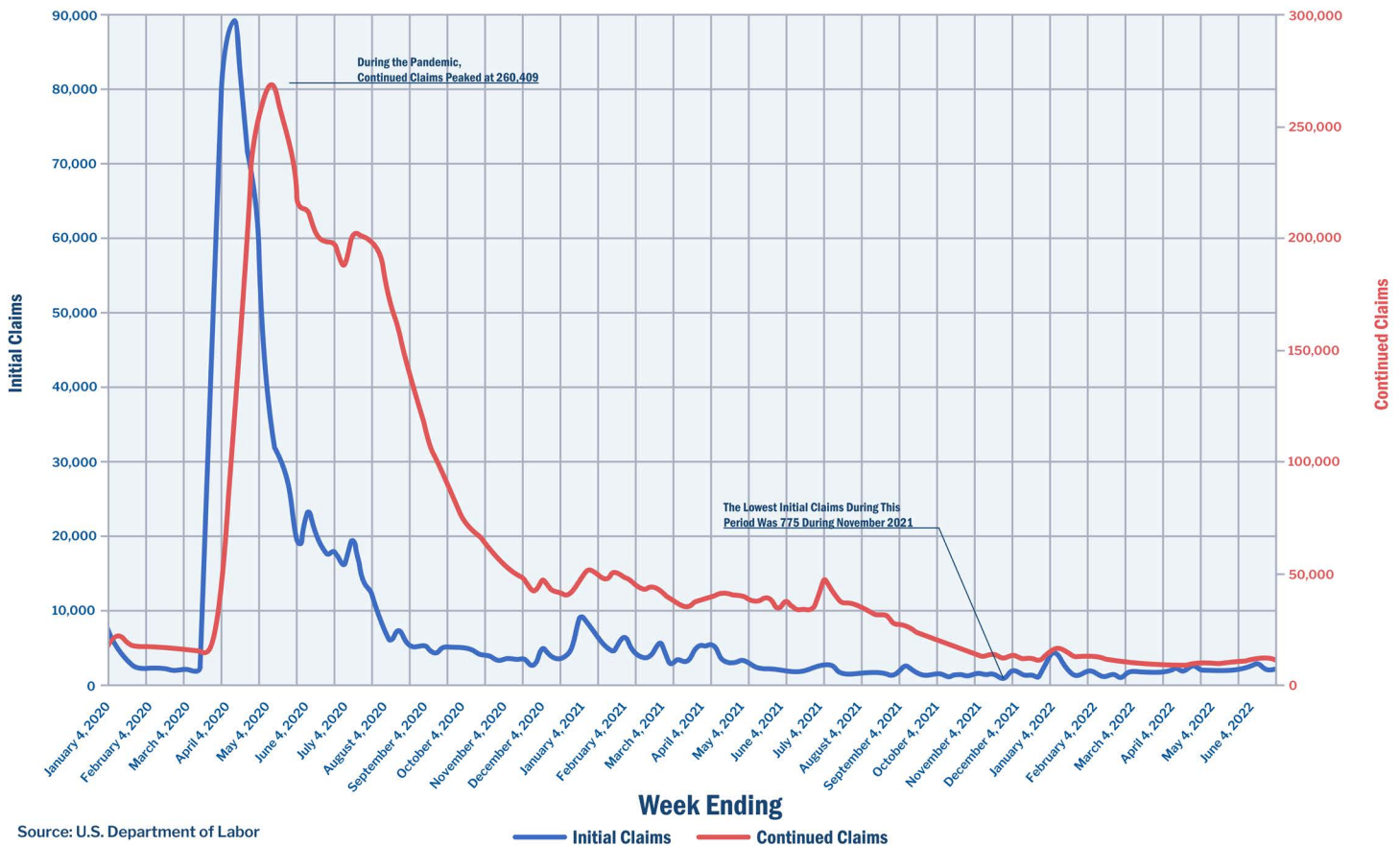
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

The growth rate in the fourth quarter of 2021 was 3.5 percent in current dollars and 1.7 percent in real dollars. Then in the first quarter of 2022, the state GDP fell by over \$600 million dollars in real dollars, or a -0.3 percent decline.

As shown in **Figure 24**, unemployment claims have returned to levels experienced at the beginning of 2020. For the week ending on January 4, 2020, initial claims were 4,629. Fourteen weeks later initial claims had exploded to 89,147 and have slowly fallen back to 1,975 as of week-end June 18, 2022. While the initial claims decline from the pandemic has not been linear, the decrease has shown a positive trend of returning and even falling below pre-pandemic levels.

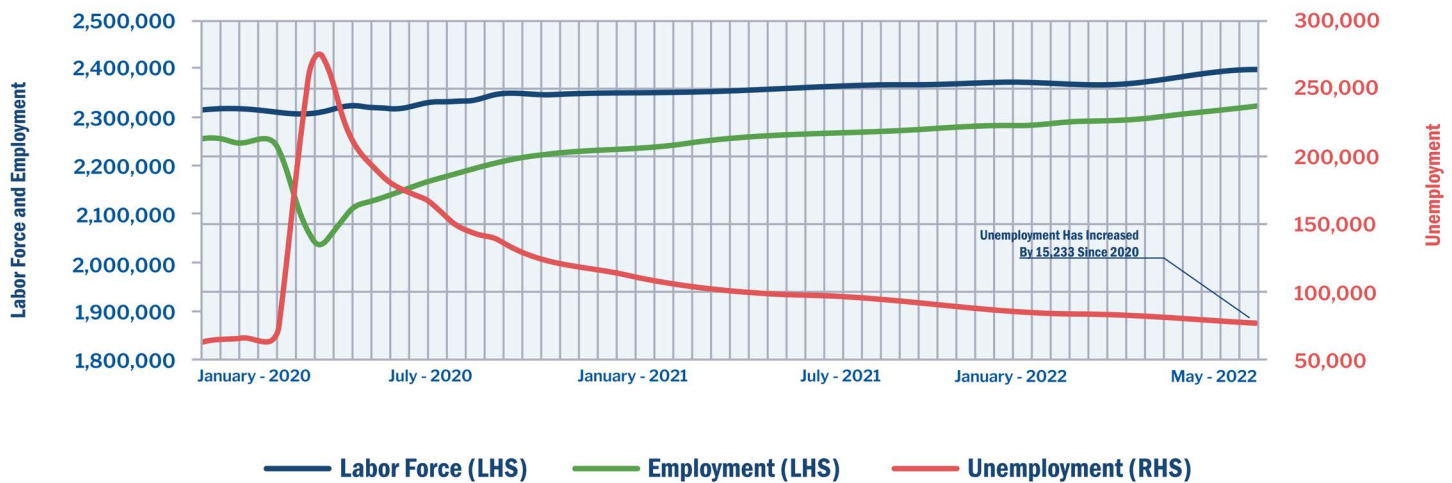
In terms of continued claims, a similar trend is occurring, however the return has been slower. Continued claims fell from just over 268,000 on week-end May 2, 2020, to 11,381 for the week ending March 9, 2022. Similar to initial claims, continued claims have fallen in line with pre-pandemic levels.

**FIGURE 24: SOUTH CAROLINA UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS**



The state's labor force had consistent growth throughout 2022. **Figure 25** displays the recovery of employment, unemployment and the labor force from the pandemic shock in 2020.

FIGURE 25: SOUTH CAROLINA LABOR FORCE STATISTICS, 2020-2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

In 2022, unemployment has fallen every month, decreasing from 82,242 people in January to 79,162 people in May. In this time period the unemployment rate has fallen from 3.5 percent to 3.3 percent. During the pandemic, unemployment rose from 63,929 in March 2020 to 268,537 in April 2020. The South Carolina economy quickly responded from this peak, with a decrease in unemployment in 24 of the following 25 months. The labor force, and employment, have both increased every month of 2022, with employment rising by 29,789 people and the labor force rising by 26,709 people. The labor force participation has risen from 55.2 percent to 55.6 percent throughout 2022.

## 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) 2019-20, the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) handled 12,722 new cases, an increase from 11,849 in 2018-2019. The top five offenses putting a person into DJJ custody are assault and battery, public disorderly conduct, simple marijuana possession, truancy, and shoplifting.

DJJ's Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) had a total enrollment of 544 for its training classes in FY 2019-20. 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 2019-2020, 15,575 youth were served through DJJ's Teen After-school Centers (TASC) and various community-based intervention programs located throughout the state. This program highlights keeping youth in school, at work, and engaged in the community to improve outcomes for youth.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, 2019-2020 Accountability Report, Page 5, [https://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov/bitstream/handle/10827/36695/DJJ\\_Annual\\_Accountability\\_Report\\_2019-2020.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://dc.statelibrary.sc.gov/bitstream/handle/10827/36695/DJJ_Annual_Accountability_Report_2019-2020.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

## ***Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)***

In fiscal year 2021, South Carolina had an average of 16,672 recipients of TANF benefits every month. Child recipients accounted for 13,673, or 82 percent, of the total. Throughout the fiscal year the number of recipients dropped from 18,603 to 16,672.<sup>3</sup> One in every 305 South Carolina resident receives TANF benefits, ranking 20th out of the 50 states. 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.

## ***Ex-Offenders***

As of June 30, 2019, South Carolina had an inmate population of 15,541. For the FY 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), the S.C. Department of Corrections (SCDC) had 5,706 total releases from its base population. The average age of an inmate was 40.3 years old. African Americans made up 60 percent of the total, with whites at 37 percent, and other races with 3 percent. The average sentence length is 5 years and 1 month. Forty-nine percent of inmates do not have a high school diploma or GED upon entering incarceration.

The SCDC had numerous individuals reaching achievements in FY 2021, including 82 GED/High School Diplomas Earned and 812 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 2021. However, 902 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.<sup>4</sup>

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 2020 American Community Survey, South Carolina had 360,000 civilian veterans aged 18 or older, making up 9.1 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 (38.9 percent for veterans, 30.4 percent for all). Veterans had a lower unemployment rate at 4.4 percent than the civilian population aged 18 to 64 (5.5 percent).<sup>5</sup>

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.

<sup>3</sup> South Carolina Department of Corrections, SCDC FAQs June 2022, [https://www.doc.sc.gov/research/SystemOverview/SCDC\\_FAQs\\_June\\_2022.pdf](https://www.doc.sc.gov/research/SystemOverview/SCDC_FAQs_June_2022.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> South Carolina Department of Corrections, Accountability Report Fiscal Year 2021, Page 11, <https://www.doc.sc.gov/research/AccountabilityReportFY2021.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 5-Year Estimate, Table S2101: Veteran Status

## Disabled

Estimates from the American Community Survey in 2020 show that 14.5 percent of the state's civilian noninstitutionalized population was disabled.<sup>6</sup> The disabled employed equaled nearly 123,245 people aged 18 to 64 in 2019. Nearly 14,500 more people were unemployed, yielding a disabled unemployment rate of 9.5 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.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, this group will continue to need focused services to overcome substantial barriers to employment.

## Homeless

South Carolina's sheltered homelessness population was estimated at 2,042 people in 2021, down 20.9 percent from 2021, including 292 veterans, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A total homeless rate of 4 per 10,000 people were experiencing sheltered homelessness. "Because of pandemic-related disruptions to counts of unsheltered homeless people in January 2021, these findings focus on people experiencing sheltered homelessness."<sup>8</sup>

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."<sup>9</sup>

## Long-term Unemployed

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics considers someone unemployed for 27 weeks or more to be long-term unemployed. In 2021, South Carolina had 28,000 people in this category with a total of 95,000 unemployed.<sup>10</sup> DEW has a number of programs that can help this population regain employment.

## Low Income

In 2020, South Carolina had an estimated 726,470 people living below the poverty level or 14.7 percent of the population for whom poverty status is determined. Of this group, nearly 158,923 were employed, and 42,873 were unemployed.<sup>11</sup> Government and educational assistance can help many in this population raise their income to sustaining levels.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 5-Year Estimate, Table S1810: Disability Characteristics

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimate, Table B18120: Employment Status by Disability and Type

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, The 2021 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, page ii

<sup>9</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness, Rapid Re-Housing, <https://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/rapid-re-housing/>, accessed on July 12, 2019

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 2021, Table 26,

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/geographic-profile/home.htm>

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 5-Year Estimate, Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months



# REQUIRED LANGUAGE

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