

INSIGHTS



Volume 7: Issue 10 November 2017

S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

At A Glance

S.C. business payrolls set record, unemployment rate edges up in November..... 1

South Carolina Ranked 25th Lowest of 50 States and D.C. in November 2

November Unemployment Rate by County 2

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for November - Seasonally Adjusted 3

Employment Changes by County 4

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Increases Again 5

Projections of Industry Employment, 2016–26 6

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

S.C. business payrolls set record, unemployment rate edges up

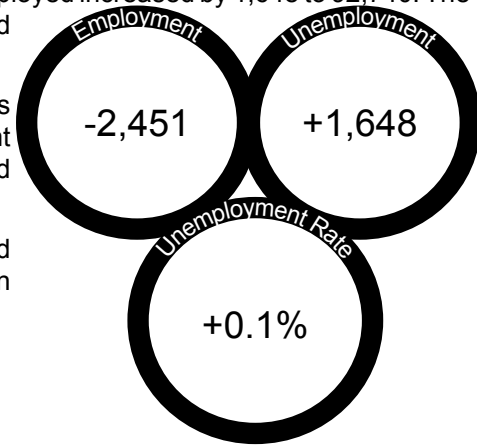
South Carolina businesses continued to set record job levels in November with manufacturing leading the way by adding 3,800 jobs over the month.

While nonfarm payrolls grew, the state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate inched up to 4 percent in November from October’s rate of 3.9 percent. In the last six months, the unemployment rate has remained steady in the 3.9 percent to 4 percent range.

The number of South Carolinians working decreased over the month by 2,451 to 2,232,579 people, while the number of unemployed increased by 1,648 to 92,740. The state’s labor force in November decreased by 803 to 2,325,319 people.

Since November of 2016, the labor force has grown by 27,178 people, and employment gains totaled 34,305. The level of unemployed people decreased by 7,127.

Nationally, the unemployment rate showed no change, remaining at 4.1 percent in November.

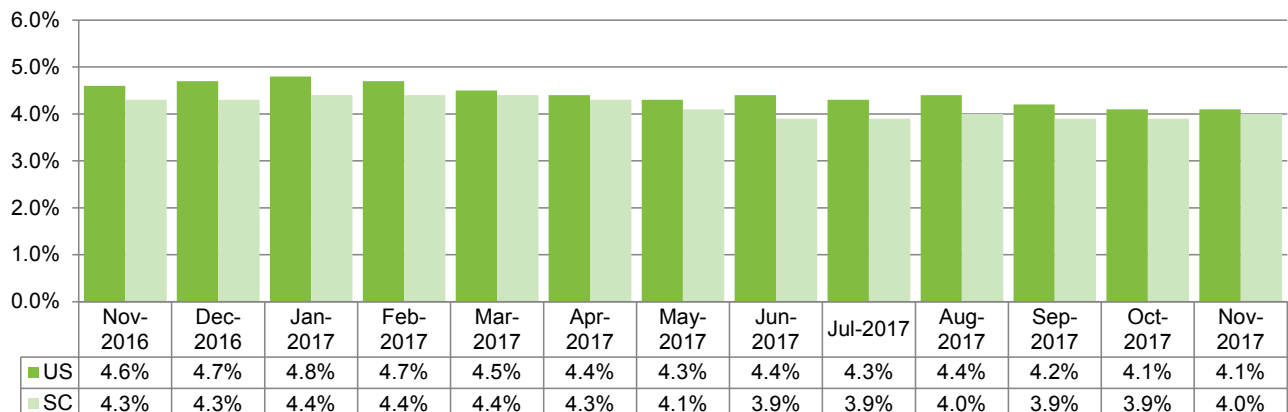


Economic Indicators

November - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	160,529,000	2,325,319
Employed	153,918,000	2,232,579
Unemployed	6,610,000	92,740
Unemp. Rate	4.1%	4.0%

South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
November 2016 - November 2017



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month’s estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2016 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

South Carolina ranked 25th lowest of 50 states and D.C. in November

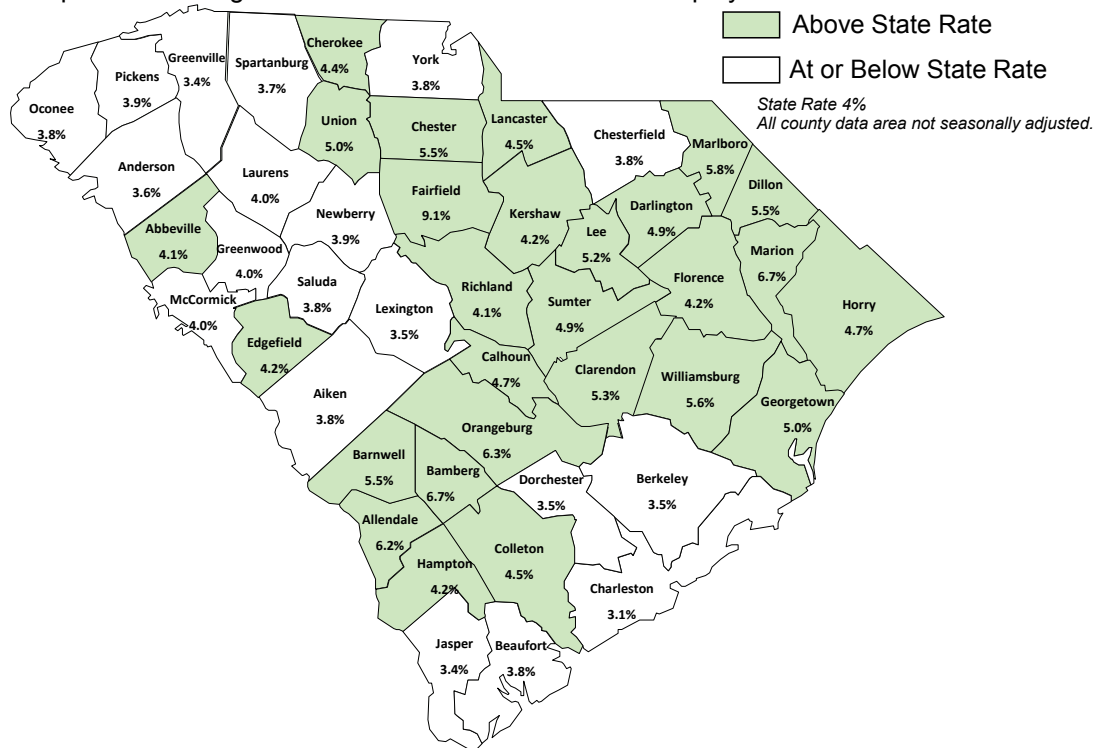
Unemployment rates were lower in November in eight states, higher in two states, and stable in 40 states and the District of Columbia. Twenty-three states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, two states had increases, and 25 states and the District had little or no change. In November, South Carolina ranked 25th lowest out of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in six states in November 2017, decreased in two states, and was essentially unchanged in 42 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, 27 states added nonfarm payroll jobs, and 23 states and the District were essentially unchanged. The largest percentage gain occurred in Utah (+2.8 percent), followed by Nevada and Texas (+2.7 percent each) from a year ago.

November unemployment rates by county

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rate estimates remained mixed in November as the not seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate edged upward for the second consecutive month. Overall, county unemployment rates ranged from 9.1 percent in Fairfield County to 3.1 percent in Charleston County during the month. Fairfield County's unemployment rate moved lower; however, the impacts associated with the recent closure of the V.C. Summer nuclear construction site remain a factor in the county's labor force estimates.

Over the month, employment was lower across 38 of 46 counties. Horry, Richland, Lexington, Greenville, and York counties experienced the greatest over-the-month declines in employment.



Hawaii	2.0
North Dakota	2.6
Nebraska	2.7
New Hampshire	2.7
Colorado	2.9
Idaho	2.9
Iowa	2.9
Vermont	2.9
Minnesota	3.1
Tennessee	3.1
Utah	3.2
Wisconsin	3.2
Maine	3.3
Missouri	3.4
Alabama	3.5
Kansas	3.5
South Dakota	3.5
Florida	3.6
Massachusetts	3.6
Arkansas	3.7
Indiana	3.7
Virginia	3.7
Texas	3.8
Maryland	3.9
Montana	4.0
South Carolina	4.0
United States	4.1
Oklahoma	4.2
Oregon	4.2
Arizona	4.3
Georgia	4.3
North Carolina	4.3
Rhode Island	4.3
Wyoming	4.3
Washington	4.5
California	4.6
Connecticut	4.6
Michigan	4.6
Pennsylvania	4.6
Delaware	4.7
Kentucky	4.7
Louisiana	4.7
New York	4.7
Mississippi	4.8
Ohio	4.8
Illinois	4.9
Nevada	5.0
New Jersey	5.1
West Virginia	5.3
New Mexico	6.1
District of Columbia	6.4
Alaska	7.2

November 2017

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Fairfield	9.1%	Charleston	3.1%
Bamberg	6.7%	Greenville	3.4%
Marion	6.7%	Jasper	3.4%
Orangeburg	6.3%	Berkeley	3.5%
Allendale	6.2%	Dorchester	3.5%

November 2017

Economic Indicators		
Average Hours & Earnings		
Manufacturing	United States (SA)	S.C. (Unadj.)
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,092.44	\$845.84
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.9	44.1
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$26.71	\$19.18

South Carolina seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment trend for November

In November 2017 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 7,900 over the month to a record level of 2,113,600.

The increase in employment was primarily due to growth in Manufacturing (+3,800); Professional and Business Services (+3,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,700); Construction (+1,000) and Financial Activities (+500).

Industries reporting declines during the same period were in the Leisure and Hospitality (-1,700); Government (-600); Other Services (-200); Information (-100) and Education and Health Services (-100) sectors.

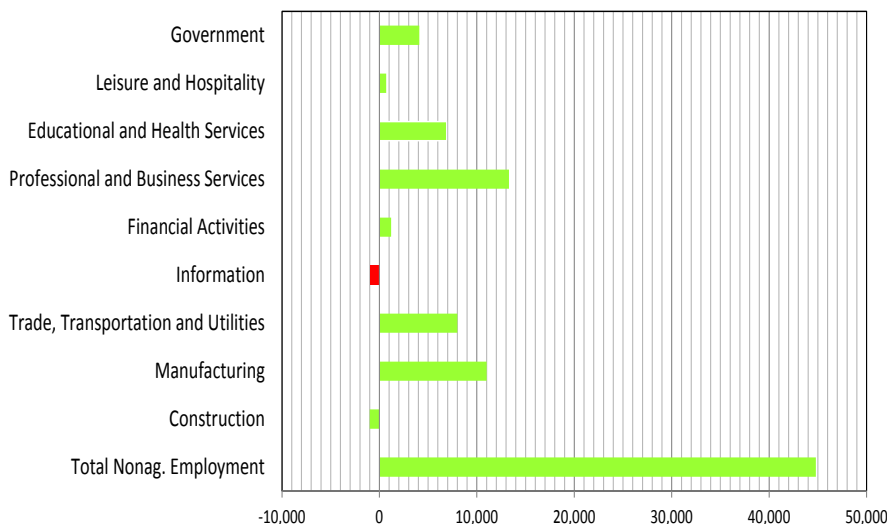
From November 2016 to November 2017, South Carolina's economy added 44,800 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs with the largest increases in the Professional and Business Services (+13,300). Additional job gains were seen in Manufacturing (+11,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,000); Education and Health Services (+6,900); Government (+4,100); Other Services (+1,600); Financial Activities (+1,200) and Leisure and Hospitality (+700).

Declines were reported in the Construction (-1,000) and Information (-1,000) sectors.

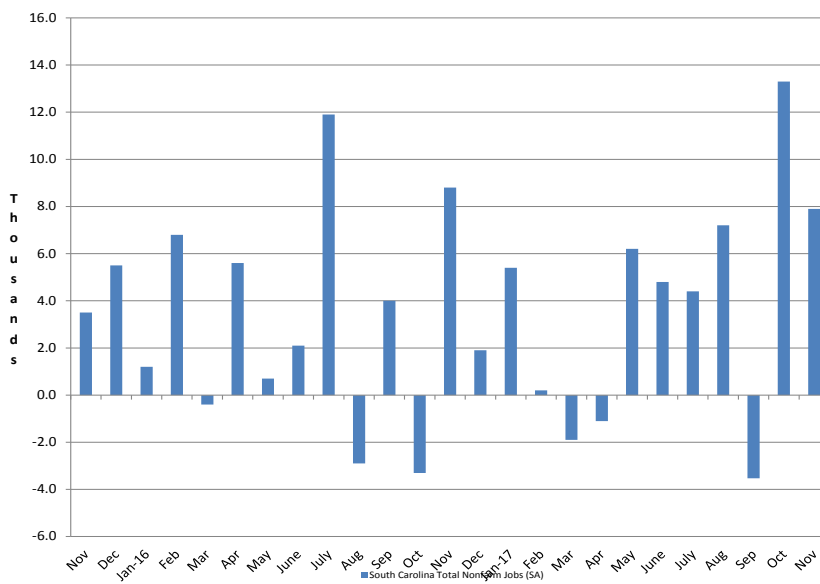
Metropolitan Statistical Areas', seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll most significant job growth was in Greenville (+2,500), followed by Charleston (+900), Myrtle Beach (+300) and Spartanburg (+300). Sumter remained the same. Over-the-month decreases occurred in Columbia (-300) and Florence (-100).

Over the year, the Metropolitan Statistical Areas saw a surge in seasonally adjusted payroll. Notable employment gains were seen in Charleston (+7,300), Myrtle Beach (+5,300) and Greenville (+5,000).

South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
November 2016 - November 2017 (SA)



SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2015 - 2017



Economic Indicators (November 2017) Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

MSA	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Greenville MSA	0.60%	1.21%
Charleston MSA	0.25%	2.09%
Sumter MSA	0.00%	0.26%
Columbia MSA	-0.08%	0.79%

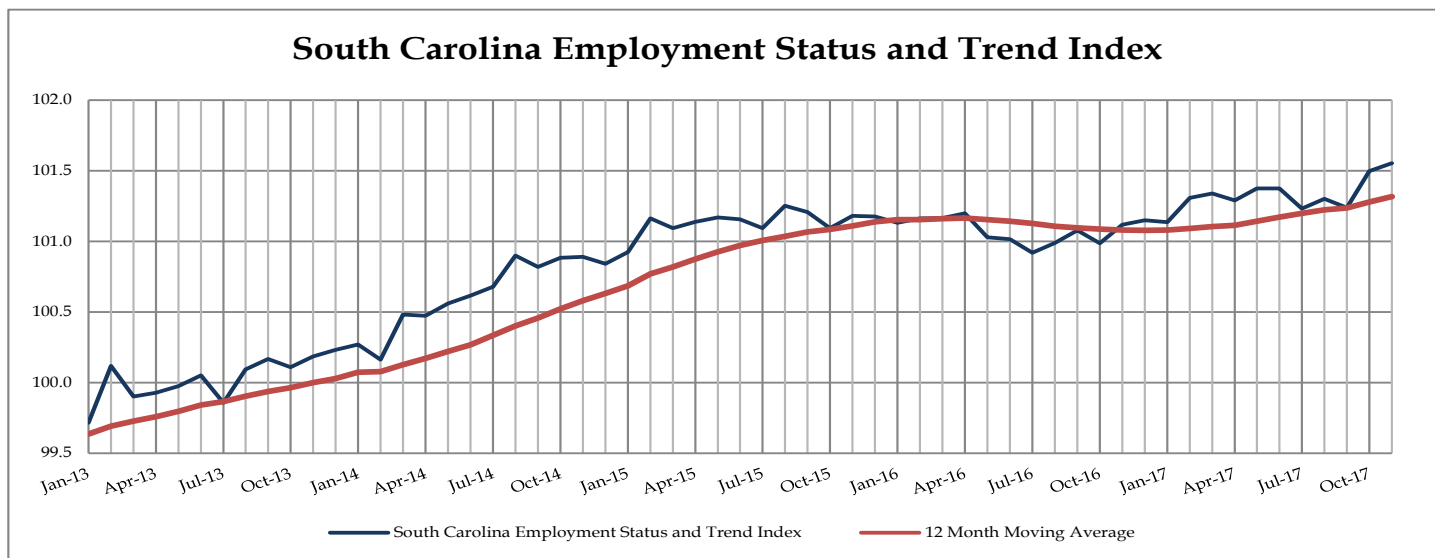
To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

Employment Changes by County

September 2017 through November 2017

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Nov 2017	Oct 2017	Sep 2017	Oct '17 - Nov '17	Sep '17 - Oct '17
Abbeville	10,105	10,105	10,070	0	35
Aiken	72,393	72,595	72,909	-202	-314
Allendale	2,523	2,518	2,524	5	-6
Anderson	86,213	86,634	86,930	-421	-296
Bamberg	4,962	4,954	4,952	8	2
Barnwell	8,009	8,011	8,006	-2	5
Beaufort	68,919	69,753	70,542	-834	-789
Berkeley	93,175	93,635	93,666	-460	-31
Calhoun	6,500	6,552	6,586	-52	-34
Charleston	198,606	199,593	199,873	-987	-280
Cherokee	22,936	22,947	22,908	-11	39
Chester	13,014	13,132	13,149	-118	-17
Chesterfield	21,438	21,473	21,499	-35	-26
Clarendon	12,353	12,363	12,381	-10	-18
Colleton	16,633	16,653	16,654	-20	-1
Darlington	28,353	28,468	28,797	-115	-329
Dillon	12,343	12,342	12,378	1	-36
Dorchester	72,447	72,804	72,849	-357	-45
Edgefield	10,342	10,369	10,448	-27	-79
Fairfield	9,373	9,451	9,485	-78	-34
Florence	62,511	62,776	63,422	-265	-646
Georgetown	24,545	24,649	24,747	-104	-98
Greenville	238,016	239,182	239,934	-1,166	-752
Greenwood	30,678	30,674	30,575	4	99
Hampton	7,920	7,943	7,994	-23	-51
Horry	130,859	133,750	136,370	-2,891	-2,620
Jasper	11,388	11,522	11,682	-134	-160
Kershaw	27,691	27,921	28,014	-230	-93
Lancaster	36,326	36,653	36,700	-327	-47
Laurens	29,115	29,255	29,385	-140	-130
Lee	6,140	6,160	6,184	-20	-24
Lexington	140,946	142,128	142,498	-1,182	-370
McCormick	3,328	3,328	3,323	0	5
Marion	11,890	11,940	12,005	-50	-65
Marlboro	8,815	8,805	8,773	10	32
Newberry	18,582	18,605	18,642	-23	-37
Oconee	33,776	33,796	33,761	-20	35
Orangeburg	33,516	33,518	33,467	-2	51
Pickens	54,439	54,707	54,894	-268	-187
Richland	191,318	192,948	193,160	-1,630	-212
Saluda	8,405	8,467	8,570	-62	-103
Spartanburg	138,675	139,348	140,576	-673	-1,228
Sumter	41,189	41,504	41,572	-315	-68
Union	11,187	11,240	11,343	-53	-103
Williamsburg	12,025	12,023	12,025	2	-2
York	126,607	127,759	127,836	-1,152	-77

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Increases Again



The S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), an aggregate of five labor-market indicators, rose again in November 2017, climbing to 101.55 from an October revised value of 101.50. The Index continued above its 12-month moving average of 101.32, an increase of four-hundredths of a point from October.

Two of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a positive direction in November, two moved in a negative direction, and one remained steady. The Conference Board’s Consumer Confidence Index rose by 2.7 points from October’s revised value of 125.9 to 128.6 in November. The Conference Board’s Help Wanted Online data, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, increased by 3,013 in November to 60,202 from 57,189 in October. The Conference Board’s Employment Trends Index fell in November to 135.88 points from an October revised value of 136.23. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance increased from an October revised average of 2,323 per week to a November average of 2,752 per week. The Bureau of Labor Statistic’s Weekly Manufacturing Hours data in November remained at 44.1 average hours per week, the same as October’s revised value.

SCESTI has increased from its year-ago value of 101.12 in November 2016. With the Index remaining above its 12-month moving average, this situation signifies a positive direction for employment change over the next several months.

Projections of Industry Employment, 2016–26

(from an article in *Career Outlook*, published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in December 2017)

How BLS develops the projections

Every 2 years, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) releases projections of the labor force, the overall economy, industry employment, and occupational employment. Economists in the BLS Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections develop these data in a number of steps, first by analyzing broad trends and then by examining more closely several hundred industries and occupations.

Population and labor force

Using population projections from the U.S. Census Bureau, BLS analyzes how much the U.S. population and labor force are expected to grow over the 2016–26 decade. BLS then produces projections of the labor force—the civilian noninstitutional population ages 16 and older that is working or actively seeking work—by looking at historical trends in labor force participation for each age, gender, and race or ethnic group.

Overall economy

BLS then creates a model of an economy that is operating at full potential, given the projected labor force and several other factors. Using this framework, BLS estimates the dollar value of each industry's total output of goods or services. Some of these goods and services are sold to other industries; for example, corn is used in making cereal. Other goods and services, such as the cereal itself or grocery delivery services, are sold directly to consumers.

Industry employment

BLS also studies trends in productivity—the amount of output produced per hour of work. Because of technological advances, for example, some industries are able to increase output without increasing the number of hours worked by employees. BLS uses this information to translate projected output into the number of jobs that each industry needs to produce its goods and provide its services.

Occupational employment

Next, BLS projects how jobs in industries are expected to be distributed across detailed occupations, using 2016 employment data from the BLS Occupational Employment Statistics survey and information from other sources for sectors not covered by the survey. BLS then analyzes how the job distribution is likely to change over the 2016–26 decade, studying trends in technology, changing skill requirements, and other factors. And because employment trends in most occupations are closely tied to trends in particular industries, BLS used the job distribution information to project employment by occupation to 2026.

“Projections of industry employment, 2016–26,” *Career Outlook*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 2017.

<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2017/article/projections-industry.htm#fastest-growing-industries>