

INSIGHTS



Volume 7: Issue 6 July 2017

S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

At A Glance

- Revisions send unemployment rate below 4 percent, employment up almost 41,000 since last year..... 1
- South Carolina Ranked 22th Lowest of 50 States and D.C. in July 2
- July Unemployment Rate by County 2
- South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for July - Seasonally Adjusted 3
- Employment Changes by County 4
- South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Declines Sharply..... 5
- Educational attainment rises over the last 24 years.6

Revisions send unemployment rate below 4 percent, employment up almost 41,000 since last year

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged in July from June's revised rate of 3.9 percent. The last time the unemployment rate was below 4 percent before the latest revisions was in November 2000.

The number of unemployed people edged lower by 141 to 91,486. The number of individuals working across the state fell by 2,217 to 2,228,354 people in July, resulting in the labor force decrease by 2,358 to 2,319,840 people.

Since July 2016, employment gains totaled 40,958, and the labor force has grown by 22,848 people. The level of unemployed people decreased by 18,110.

Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased from 4.4 percent in June to 4.3 percent in July.



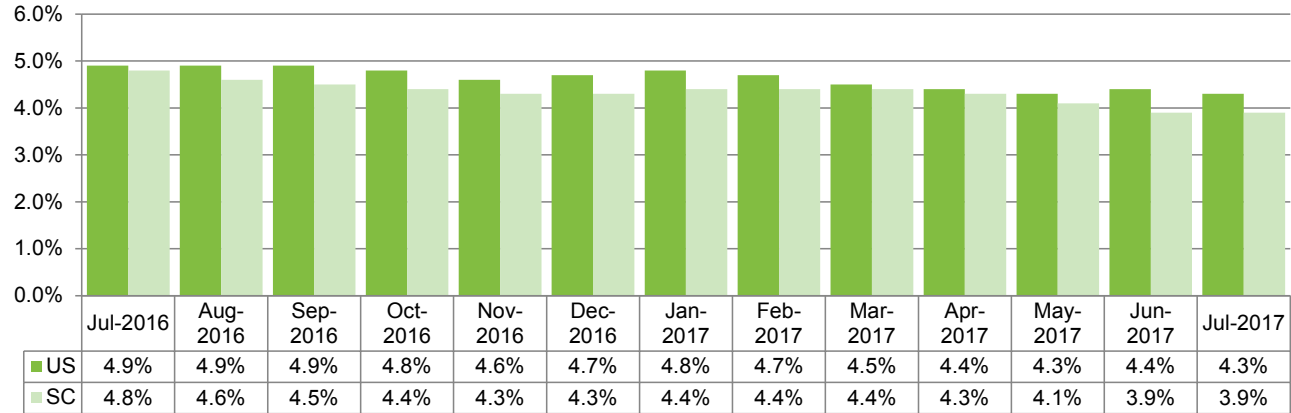
View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Economic Indicators

July - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	160,494,000	2,319,840
Employed	153,513,000	2,228,354
Unemployed	6,981,000	91,486
Unemp. Rate	4.3%	3.9%

South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
July 2016 - July 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 22th lowest of 50 states and D.C. in July

Unemployment rates were higher in July in three states, lower in one state, and stable in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Twenty-seven states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, and 23 states and the District had little or no change. In July, South Carolina ranked 22th lowest out of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 11 states and the District of Columbia in July 2017, decreased in one state, and was essentially unchanged in 38 states. Over the year, 29 states and the District added nonfarm payroll jobs, and 21 states were essentially unchanged. The largest percentage gain occurred in Oregon (+2.9 percent), followed by Arkansas, Florida, and Nevada (+2.7 percent each) from a year ago.

July unemployment rate by county

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates changed little across the state during July with a few exceptions. Oconee, Spartanburg, Union, and Cherokee counties experienced shifts upward in their rates due to summer seasonal activities of some employers in the areas.

Overall, county unemployment rates ranged from 7.6 percent in Bamberg County to 3.5 percent in Charleston County during July, very similar to June's estimates. With the recent announcement related to the VC Summer nuclear construction site, it is possible that some counties within the Columbia Metropolitan Statistical area and neighboring areas may experience some movement in their labor force estimates as the fourth quarter of the year approaches.



North Dakota	2.2
Colorado	2.4
Hawaii	2.7
Nebraska	2.8
New Hampshire	2.8
Idaho	3.0
Indiana	3.1
South Dakota	3.1
Vermont	3.1
Iowa	3.2
Wisconsin	3.2
Arkansas	3.4
Tennessee	3.4
Utah	3.5
Kansas	3.7
Maine	3.7
Michigan	3.7
Minnesota	3.7
Missouri	3.8
Oregon	3.8
Virginia	3.8
Montana	3.9
South Carolina	3.9
Maryland	4.0
Wyoming	4.0
Florida	4.1
North Carolina	4.1
New Jersey	4.2
Massachusetts	4.3
Rhode Island	4.3
Texas	4.3
United States	4.3
Oklahoma	4.4
Alabama	4.5
Washington	4.5
Georgia	4.7
New York	4.7
West Virginia	4.7
California	4.8
Delaware	4.8
Illinois	4.8
Nevada	4.8
Connecticut	5.0
Pennsylvania	5.0
Arizona	5.1
Mississippi	5.2
Ohio	5.2
Kentucky	5.3
Louisiana	5.3
New Mexico	6.3
District of Columbia	6.4
Alaska	7.0

July 2017

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Bamberg	7.6%	Charleston	3.5%
Allendale	7.0%	Jasper	3.6%
Marion	7.0%	Lexington	3.6%
Marlboro	7.0%	Berkeley	3.8%
Orangeburg	6.7%	Dorchester	3.8%

July 2017

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	S.C. (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,086.30	\$804.71
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.9	42.6
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$26.70	\$18.89

South Carolina seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment trend for July

In July 2017, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 7,700 over the month to a record high level of 2,092,000.

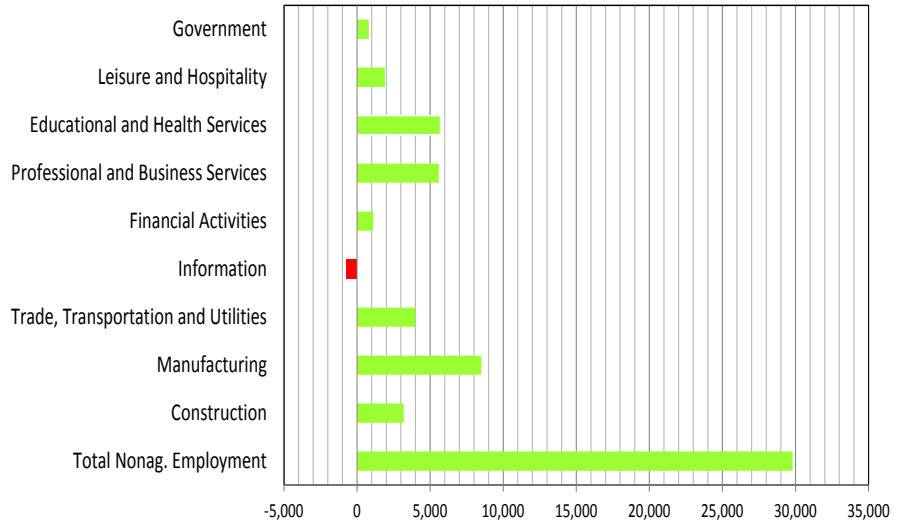
The increase in employment was primarily due to growth in Professional and Business Services (+2,800); Government (+2,200); Manufacturing (+1,900); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,700); and Education and Health Services (+1,300). Additional gains were reported in Financial Activities (+300); Other Services (+300); Construction (+200); and Information (+100).

Reporting declines during the same period was the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-3,100) sector.

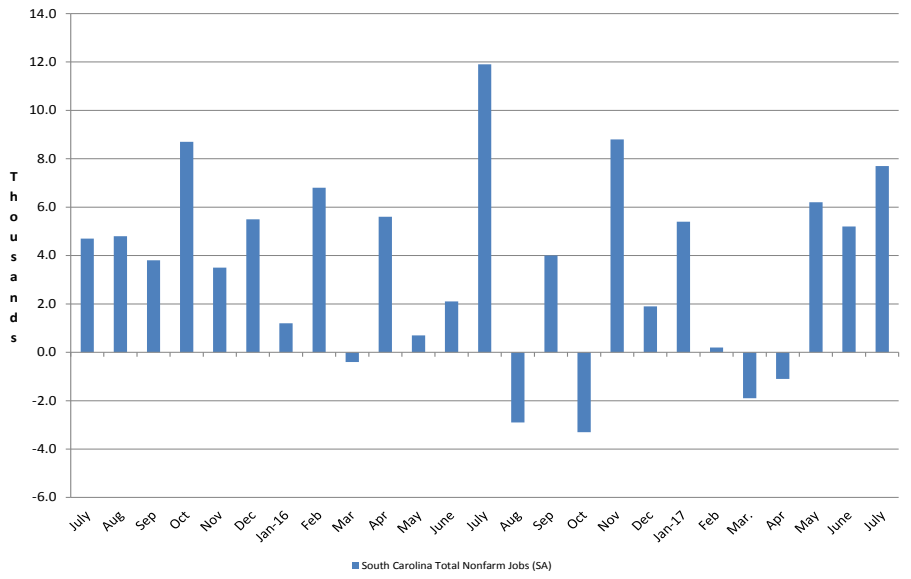
An over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was 29,800. Growth occurred in Manufacturing (+9,300); Education and Health Services (+5,700); Professional and Business Services (+5,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,000); Construction (+3,200); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,900); Financial Activities (+1,100); and Government (+800). Decreases were reported in Other Services (-1,200) and Information (-700).

Metropolitan Statistical Areas', seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment saw over-the-month increases. Columbia (+2,400) led in job gains as Sumter (+400) saw an uptick in their job numbers. Greenville remained stable. The most prominent decrease was seen in Myrtle Beach (-1,800) with additional jobs declining in Spartanburg (-570), Charleston (-400), and Florence (-100).

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



**SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2015 - 2017**



Economic Indicators (July 2017)

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

MSA	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Columbia MSA	0.60%	1.03%
Sumter MSA	0.51%	0.77%
Greenville MSA	0%	0.73%
Charleston MSA	-0.11%	1.24%

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

www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

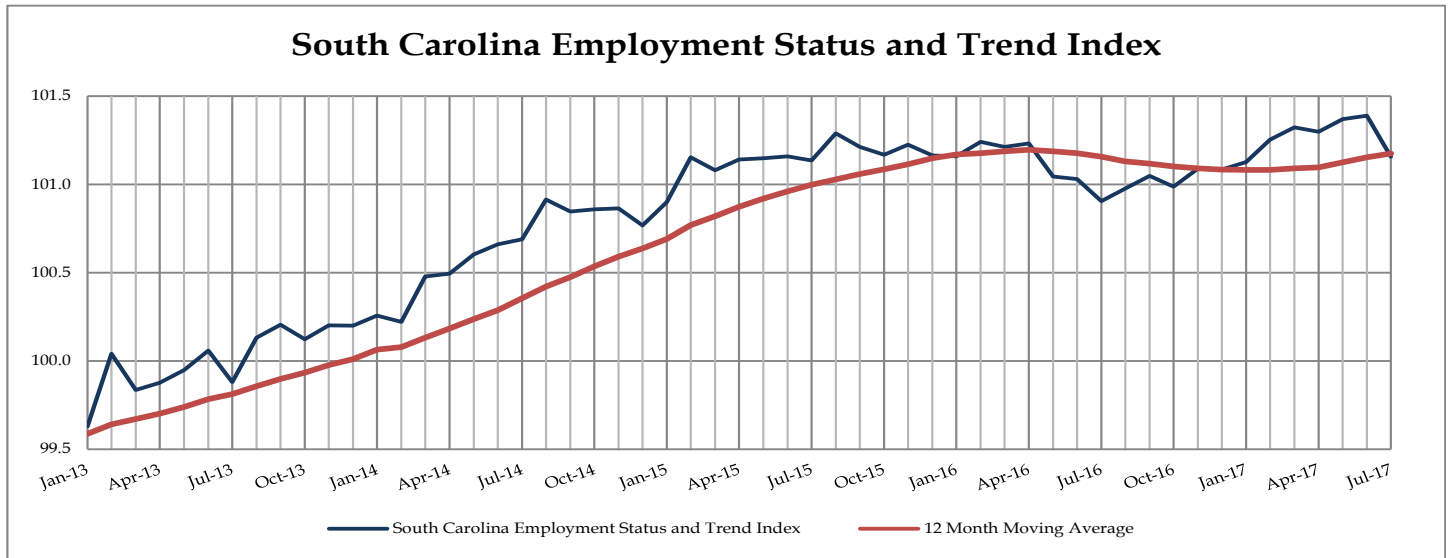
(Employment and Wage Data section)

Employment Changes by County

May 2017 through July 2017

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Jul 2017	Jun 2017	May 2017	Jun '17 - Jul '17	May '17 - Jun '17
Abbeville	10,041	9,964	9,892	77	72
Aiken	73,229	72,684	71,703	545	981
Allendale	2,581	2,538	2,468	43	70
Anderson	86,482	86,775	86,525	-293	250
Bamberg	5,018	4,946	4,844	72	102
Barnwell	8,055	7,963	7,849	92	114
Beaufort	73,637	72,906	71,394	731	1,512
Berkeley	94,575	94,277	93,854	298	423
Calhoun	6,714	6,674	6,618	40	56
Charleston	201,773	201,421	200,454	352	967
Cherokee	22,793	22,660	22,487	133	173
Chester	13,117	13,206	13,165	-89	41
Chesterfield	21,620	21,490	21,246	130	244
Clarendon	12,560	12,433	12,207	127	226
Colleton	16,750	16,636	16,459	114	177
Darlington	29,119	29,151	29,131	-32	20
Dillon	12,555	12,410	12,184	145	226
Dorchester	73,578	73,358	73,003	220	355
Edgefield	10,561	10,482	10,287	79	195
Fairfield	9,650	9,590	9,530	60	60
Florence	63,802	64,010	64,217	-208	-207
Georgetown	25,199	24,959	24,550	240	409
Greenville	238,560	239,384	238,806	-824	578
Greenwood	30,576	30,291	30,004	285	287
Hampton	8,243	8,124	7,913	119	211
Horry	144,117	143,454	140,676	663	2,778
Jasper	12,162	12,097	11,847	65	250
Kershaw	28,492	28,317	28,146	175	171
Lancaster	36,563	36,847	36,766	-284	81
Laurens	29,285	29,387	29,258	-102	129
Lee	6,291	6,236	6,147	55	89
Lexington	144,632	143,819	143,201	813	618
McCormick	3,321	3,297	3,264	24	33
Marion	12,215	12,119	11,963	96	156
Marlboro	8,804	8,696	8,585	108	111
Newberry	18,959	18,723	18,380	236	343
Oconee	33,821	33,560	33,208	261	352
Orangeburg	33,692	33,332	32,893	360	439
Pickens	54,564	54,784	54,658	-220	126
Richland	195,626	194,469	194,056	1,157	413
Saluda	8,886	8,803	8,603	83	200
Spartanburg	138,624	139,947	139,292	-1,323	655
Sumter	42,410	42,286	41,815	124	471
Union	11,188	11,297	11,243	-109	54
Williamsburg	12,116	11,993	11,839	123	154
York	127,101	128,167	128,086	-1,066	81

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Declines Sharply



The S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), an aggregate of five labor-market indicators, declined sharply in July 2017, dropping to 101.16 from a June revised value of 101.39. The Index fell below its 12-month moving average, which rose three-hundredths of a point to 101.18 in July.

Three of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a negative direction in July, and two moved in a positive direction. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance rose from a June average of 2,795 per week to a July average of 3,823 per week. The Conference Board’s Help Wanted Online data, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, fell by 3,556 in July to 59,884 from 63,440 in June. The Bureau of Labor Statistic’s Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed production hours dropped by 1.6 hours per week in July to 41.0 average hours per week from a revised 42.6 average hours per week in June. The Conference Board’s Consumer Confidence Index climbed by 3.8 points from June’s revised value of 117.3 to 121.1 in July. The Conference Board’s Employment Trends Index rose in July to 133.77 points from a June revised value of 132.42.

SCESTI has increased from its year-ago value of 100.91 in July 2016. With the Index falling below its 12-month moving average, this signifies a more uncertain direction over the next several months as compared to the previous months’ indications of positive growth.

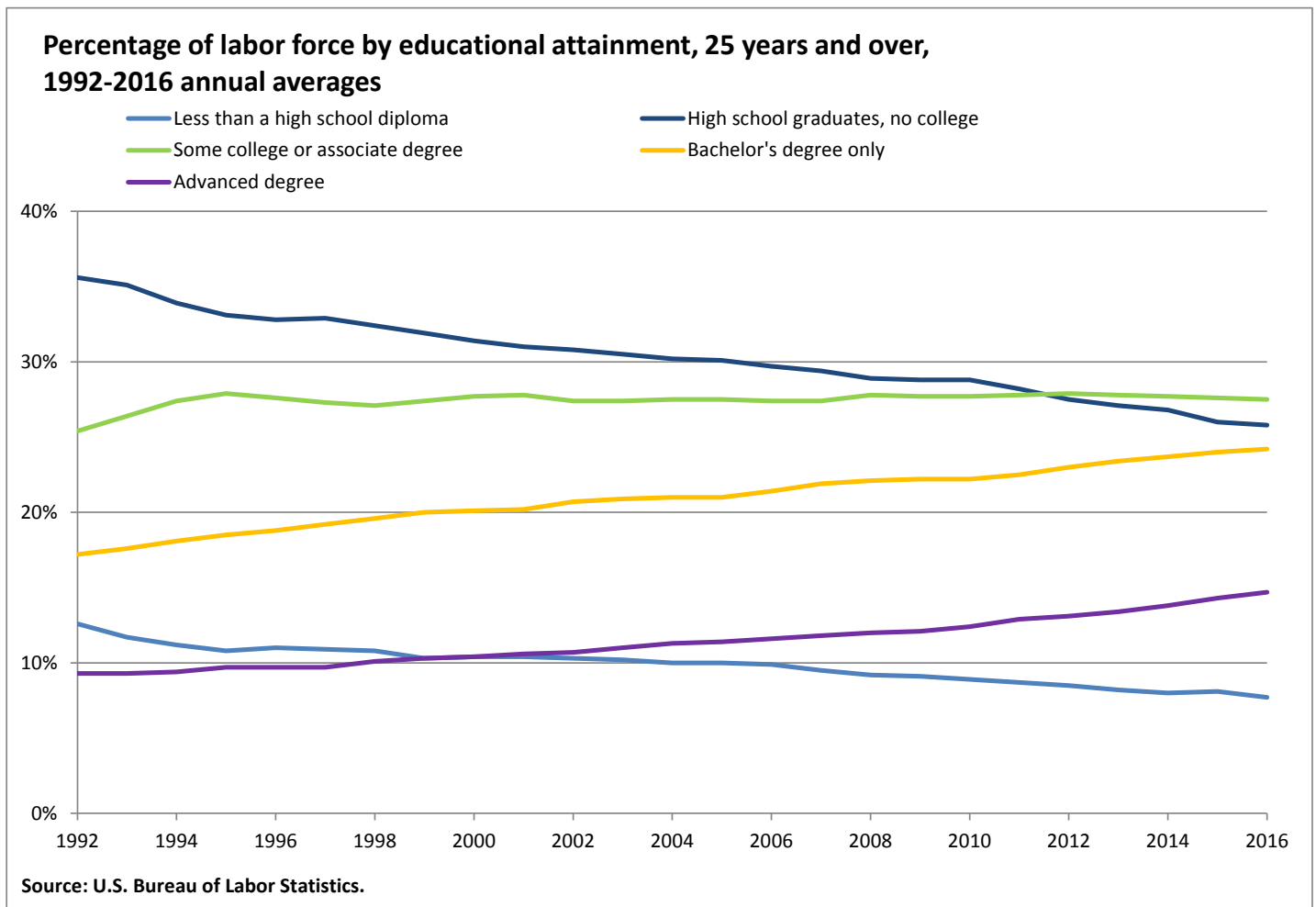
Educational attainment rises over the last 24 years

(Taken from the article “Profile of the labor force by educational attainment” by Vernon Brundage, Jr. from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics publication “Spotlight on Statistics”)

The U.S. labor force has become increasingly educated over the last 24 years. From 1992 to 2016, the share of the labor force made up of people with a bachelor’s degree and an advanced degree (includes people with master’s, professional, and doctoral degrees) has grown consistently, rising by 7 percentage points and 5 percentage points, respectively.

Over the same time period, the proportion of people with either less than a high school diploma or with a high school diploma but no college experience has declined by about 5 and 10 percentage points, respectively.

Since 2012, people with some college or an associate’s degree have made up the largest share of the U.S. civilian labor force compared to all other major categories of educational attainment. Prior to 2012, the largest share comprised people with a high school diploma but no college experience.



<https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2017/educational-attainment-of-the-labor-force/home.htm>