

INSIGHTS

3.3%
October
Unemployment Rate

Volume 8: Issue 9 October 2018

S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

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Another record number of people working, unemployment rate holds steady at 3.3 percent

The number of individuals working across the state climbed higher in October, increasing by 3,430 people to a record level of 2,231,027. Unemployment levels decreased by 521 to 76,220. The state's labor force increased by 2,909 to a level of 2,307,247.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged over the month, remaining at a record low of 3.3 percent. Since October of 2017, employment gains totaled 9,552, and the labor force declined by 12,162. The level of unemployed declined by 21,714 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged over the month at 3.7 percent.

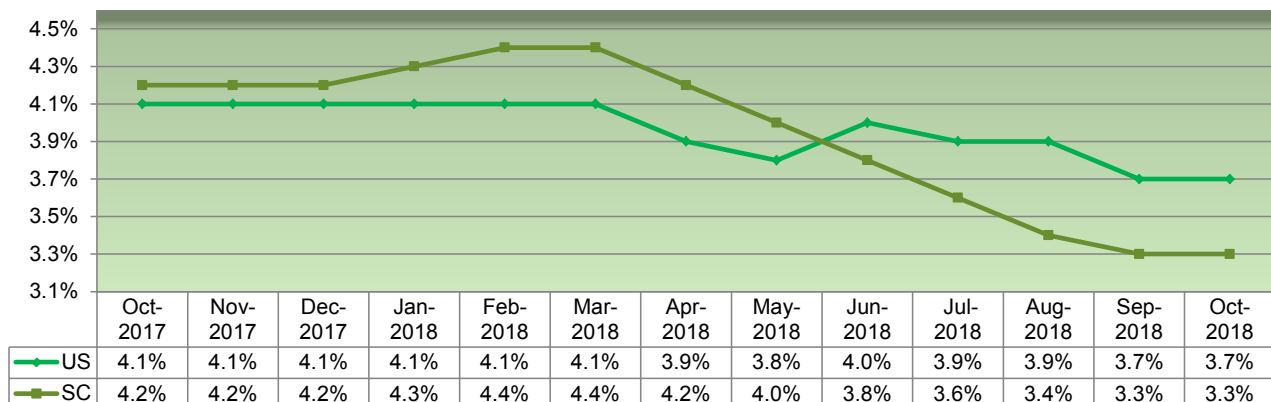


Economic Indicators

October 2018 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	162,637,000	2,307,247
Employed	156,562,000	2,231,027
Unemployed	6,075,000	76,220
Unemp. Rate	3.7%	3.3%

South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
October 2017 - October 2018



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 2017 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

S.C. rate maintains record low in October; S.C. rate ranked 15th lowest

Unemployment rates were lower in October in six states, higher in two states, and stable in 42 states and the District of Columbia. Eighteen states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, and 32 states and the District had little or no change. The national unemployment rate was unchanged from September at 3.7 percent. South Carolina's unemployment rate remained at 3.3 percent, ranking 15th lowest of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

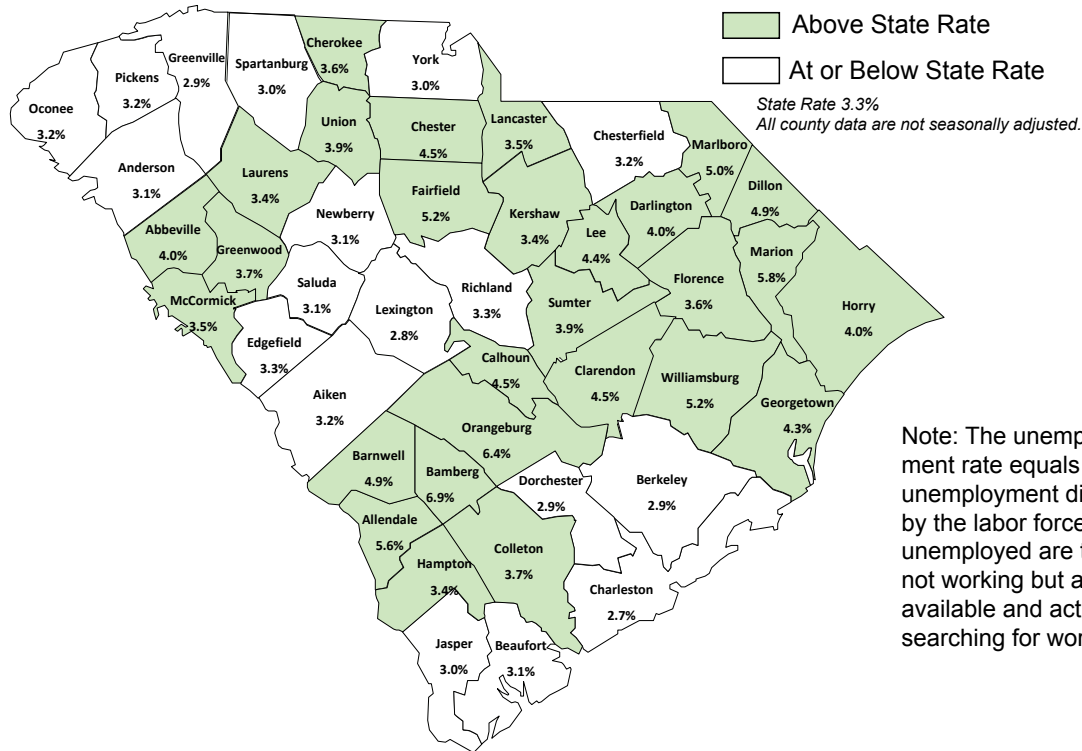
Nonfarm payroll employment increased in nine states in October 2018 and was essentially unchanged in 41 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, 36 states added nonfarm payroll jobs, and 14 states and the District were essentially unchanged. The largest job gains occurred in Texas (+384,800), California (+308,700), and Florida (+232,600). The largest percentage gain occurred in Nevada (+3.4 percent), followed by Utah and Washington (+3.3 percent each).

October unemployment rates by county

Not seasonally adjusted, county unemployment rate estimates were mixed across the state in October as statewide employment and unemployment levels increased over the month. Overall, county unemployment rates ranged from 6.9 percent in Bamberg County to 2.7 percent in Charleston County.

Over the year, Charleston (+2,884), Horry (+2,185), York (+1,956) and Beaufort (+1,555) counties have seen the highest employment growth.

Category 1 Hurricane Florence, which caused significant flooding in northeast portions of the state in mid-September, had negligible impact on the estimated number of people working in the Pee Dee and coastal counties.



Note: The unemployment rate equals unemployment divided by the labor force. The unemployed are those not working but able, available and actively searching for work.

Hawaii	2.3
Iowa	2.4
New Hampshire	2.6
Idaho	2.7
Minnesota	2.8
Nebraska	2.8
North Dakota	2.8
Vermont	2.8
Virginia	2.9
South Dakota	3.0
Wisconsin	3.0
Missouri	3.1
Colorado	3.2
Utah	3.2
Kansas	3.3
South Carolina	3.3
Florida	3.4
Maine	3.4
Oklahoma	3.4
Arkansas	3.5
Indiana	3.5
Massachusetts	3.5
Georgia	3.6
North Carolina	3.6
Montana	3.7
Tennessee	3.7
Texas	3.7
United States	3.7
Oregon	3.8
Rhode Island	3.8
Delaware	3.9
Michigan	3.9
New York	4.0
Alabama	4.1
California	4.1
Maryland	4.1
New Jersey	4.1
Pennsylvania	4.1
Wyoming	4.1
Connecticut	4.2
Illinois	4.2
Washington	4.3
Nevada	4.4
Kentucky	4.5
New Mexico	4.6
Ohio	4.6
Arizona	4.7
Mississippi	4.7
Louisiana	5.0
West Virginia	5.2
District of Columbia	5.6
Alaska	6.4

October 2018

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Bamberg	6.9%	Charleston	2.7%
Orangeburg	6.4%	Lexington	2.8%
Marion	5.8%	Berkeley	2.9%
Allendale	5.6%	Dorchester	2.9%
Fairfield	5.2%	Greenville	2.9%

October 2018

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	S.C. (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,106.09	\$832.23
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.8	43.3
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$27.11	\$19.22

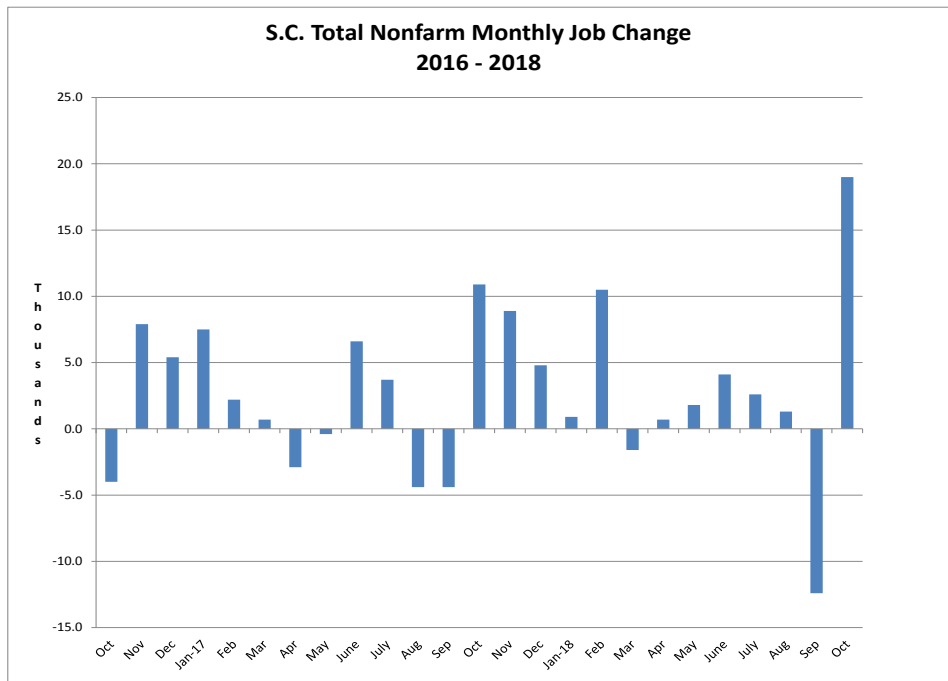
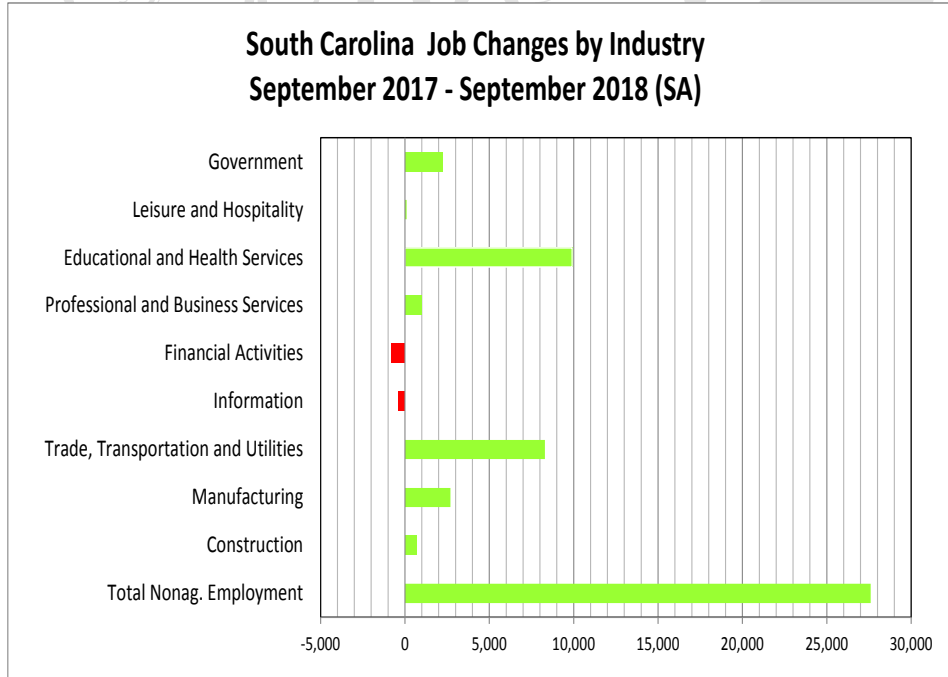
South Carolina nonfarm employment trends for October - seasonally adjusted

In October 2018 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 19,000 over the month to a record high level of 2,134,100. The increase in employment was primarily due to changes in Leisure and Hospitality (+8,900); Professional and Business Services (+7,400); Trade Transportation, and Utilities (+3,700); Manufacturing (+1,000) and Financial Activities (+400). The industries reporting declines during the same period were Education and Health Services (-1,400); Other Services (-700); Construction (-200) and Information (-100). Government remained stagnant during this period.

From October 2017 to October 2018, South Carolina's economy has added 37,800 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs. Industries with noticeable gains were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+13,200); Professional and Business Services (+6,700); Leisure and Hospitality (6,400); Manufacturing (+5,600); Education and Health Services (+5,400); Government (+1,700); Financial Activities (+700) and Other Services (+100). Declines were reported in Construction (-1,700) and Information (-500).

For the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payrolls' most significant job increase was in Charleston (+7,400), Myrtle Beach (+3,200) and Greenville (+1,700). Other areas experiencing increases were Spartanburg (+800), Florence (+700), Hilton Head (+500) and Sumter (+200). Columbia had a loss of (-100) during the month.

Over the year, all Metropolitan Statistical Areas saw an increase in seasonally adjusted payroll. Leading with employment gains were Charleston (7,500), Greenville (+6,100), Columbia (+5,400), Myrtle Beach (+4,100) and Hilton Head Bluffton Beaufort (+2,800).



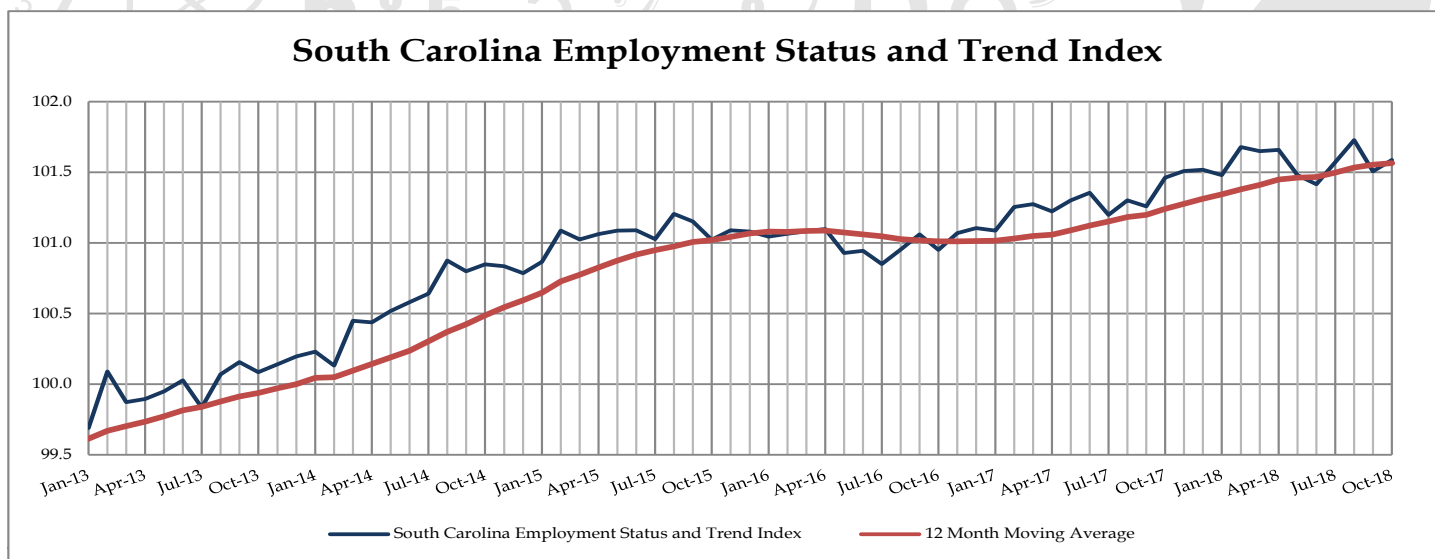
MSA	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	2.04%	2.11%
Florence MSA	0.78%	2.27%
Sumter MSA	0.50%	1.52%
Greenville MSA	0.40%	1.47%

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

Employment changes by county
October 2018 through August 2018

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Oct 2018	Sep 2018	Aug 2018	Sep '18 - Oct '18	Aug '18 - Sep '18
Abbeville	9,708	9,577	9,510	131	67
Aiken	72,307	72,019	71,641	288	378
Allendale	2,557	2,544	2,562	13	-18
Anderson	87,074	86,213	85,990	861	223
Bamberg	4,811	4,770	4,780	41	-10
Barnwell	7,670	7,602	7,580	68	22
Beaufort	71,972	71,893	73,460	79	-1,567
Berkeley	96,420	94,605	95,536	1,815	-931
Calhoun	6,465	6,454	6,488	11	-34
Charleston	201,059	197,286	199,280	3,773	-1,994
Cherokee	23,349	23,081	22,912	268	169
Chester	13,136	13,048	12,979	88	69
Chesterfield	20,858	20,672	20,628	186	44
Clarendon	11,741	11,653	11,673	88	-20
Colleton	16,295	16,074	16,095	221	-21
Darlington	28,373	28,247	28,155	126	92
Dillon	11,931	11,855	11,884	76	-29
Dorchester	72,678	71,319	72,041	1,359	-722
Edgefield	10,137	10,119	10,116	18	3
Fairfield	9,287	9,265	9,298	22	-33
Florence	62,844	62,434	62,037	410	397
Georgetown	24,417	24,261	24,473	156	-212
Greenville	241,502	239,070	238,355	2,432	715
Greenwood	29,655	29,292	29,134	363	158
Hampton	7,890	7,870	7,981	20	-111
Horry	137,612	138,203	143,960	-591	-5,757
Jasper	11,864	11,840	12,101	24	-261
Kershaw	27,768	27,698	27,787	70	-89
Lancaster	38,367	38,087	37,862	280	225
Laurens	29,158	28,887	28,850	271	37
Lee	6,036	6,006	6,018	30	-12
Lexington	142,529	142,040	142,307	489	-267
McCormick	3,261	3,224	3,204	37	20
Marion	11,713	11,644	11,723	69	-79
Marlboro	8,789	8,692	8,657	97	35
Newberry	17,675	17,589	17,676	86	-87
Oconee	33,239	32,878	32,770	361	108
Orangeburg	32,806	32,484	32,429	322	55
Pickens	54,978	54,414	54,251	564	163
Richland	191,982	191,180	191,183	802	-3
Saluda	8,352	8,394	8,540	-42	-146
Spartanburg	142,326	141,263	140,426	1,063	837
Sumter	42,164	41,908	41,728	256	180
Union	11,274	11,189	11,126	85	63
Williamsburg	11,762	11,656	11,632	106	24
York	131,942	130,884	129,939	1,058	945

S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index climbs back over 12-month moving average in October



“With the Index’s recent volatility, SCESTI indicates an uncertain direction for employment change over the next several months.”

S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), an aggregate of five labor-market indicators, rose by eight points over its revised September value of 101.51 to a level of 101.59 in October 2018. The Index climbed slightly above its 12-month moving average, which ticked up to 101.57 for the month from a revised value of 101.55 in September.

Four of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a positive direction in October. The Conference Board’s Consumer Confidence Index rose by 2.6 points from September’s revised value of 135.3 to 137.9 in October. The Conference Board’s Employment Trends Index rose in October to 110.72 points from a September revised value of 110.39. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance fell sharply from a September average of 3,027 per week to an October average of 2,300 per week. The Bureau of Labor Statistic’s S.C. Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed production hours climbing to a preliminary 43.3 hours per week in October over its revised September level of 41.7. The Conference Board’s Help Wanted Online® data, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, decreased by 3,977 ads in October to 55,127 from 59,104 in September.

SCESTI is ahead of its year-ago figure of 101.46 in October of 2017. With the Index recent volatility, SCESTI indicates an uncertain direction for employment change over the next several months.

S.C. Online Job Advertisements

S.C. Avg. Weekly Manufacturing Hours

U.S. Consumer Confidence Index

U.S. Employment Trends Index

S.C. Initial Claims/ Unemployment Insurance

Do hurricanes negate past employment growth?

When Hurricane Florence began forming in the Atlantic Ocean, South Carolina's unemployment rate was steadily declining. In April 2018, the unemployment rate was 4.2 percent; the number of unemployed people declined through August with the unemployment rate reaching an all-time low of 3.4 percent. Since the hurricane made landfall in September 2018, South Carolina's unemployment rate decreased only a tenth of a percentage point. If this trend continues, will the decline in the unemployment rate continue, or will the hurricane negate past employment growth and cause the unemployment to increase once again?

Coastal shoreline counties create 40 percent of America's jobs. They are responsible for 46 percent of its gross domestic product according to a study from the NOAA. Shortly after Gov. Henry McMaster ordered evacuations along coastal South Carolina, key attractions in the Low Country began to close their doors. Storm-related incidences such as a major hurricane could be significant for the impacted regions economically, particularly on our state's tourism industry. Revenue losses are anticipated whenever a hurricane is expected, but in Charleston, the tourism revenue estimates were more than 70 percent higher (\$111.3 million) than initially projected (\$9.3 million) per day over a seven-day span.

Economist Joseph Von Nessen, University of South Carolina, stated "typically, we see stimulus effects that create jobs and raise incomes for South Carolinians". That statement was made in regard to the rebuilding effect that helps to energize local economies due to the horrendous destruction that hurricanes cause. Growth in other industries besides construction and manufacturing tend "to slow a few tenths of a percentage point, on an annual basis" until the economies tend to return to similar original conditions (Wiseman, Krishner, & Rugaber, 2018).

Some South Carolina counties that were affected were: Jasper, Dorchester, Berkeley, Charleston, Horry and Georgetown (The Weather Channel, 2018). Some companies temporarily closed their operations in these areas, including Nucor's steel processing plant in Berkeley County and the Mercedes-Benz Van Factory in Charleston (Bloomberg, 2018). Some companies that operate in the counties affected do not expect the suspension of operations to impact orders, but they made no notice on how it would affect their companies' future growth (Bloomberg, 2018).

Based on correlations and previous studies, it is presumable that employment conditions will continue to decrease in most industries, not including manufacturing and construction, until the damage caused by Hurricane Florence has been remedied. One does hope that the industries affected negatively are somewhat balanced by the growth in industries that spiked as a result of the hurricane to a level of equilibrium.

Do hurricanes negate past employment growth? (cont'd)

For more information concerning hurricanes, www.dnr.sc.gov is a credible source, while information concerning South Carolina's economy and industries can be found at the Bureau of Labor and Statistics website at www.bls.gov.

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