

State Personal Income

Grows 2.6% in 2nd Quarter

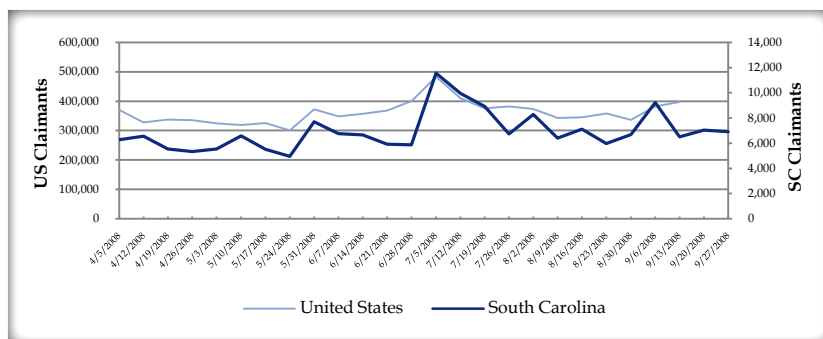
Seasonally Adjusted Per Capita Income



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census

2nd quarter state personal income grew 2.6% over the preceding quarter, putting South Carolina in the top ten states with the highest growth. U.S. personal income grew at 1.8%. The bulk of this growth (79%) is attributed to the cash rebates of the 2008 federal Economic Stimulus Act. 14% is due to growth in earnings, primarily driven by the Professional & Technical Services and Healthcare industries.

Initial Unemployment Claims



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

After peaking in July with the federal enactment of extended unemployment insurance benefits, weekly initial claims have largely leveled off at a rate higher than prior to implementation of the extension.

KEY S.C. INDICATORS

Income



State Per Capita Income

rose \$826 to \$32,759 in the 2nd quarter.

Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Census



Retail Sales

fell \$577 million for September over the previous month.

South Carolina Department of Revenue

Employment



Nonfarm Employment

decreased 15,400 or 0.78% in September.

Bureau of Labor Statistics



Labor Force Participation

decreased 5,888 in September.

Bureau of Labor Statistics



Unemployment Rate

fell a seasonally adjusted 0.3% in September.

Bureau of Labor Statistics



Manufacturing Weekly Hours

decreased 0.5 hours in September.

Bureau of Labor Statistics



Available Online Job Postings

statewide decreased 3,800 or 6.61% in September.

The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index

Real Estate



Median Home Sale Price

was unchanged at \$154,900 per unit in September.

South Carolina Association of Realtors



Building Permits

declined by 1,050 units in August.

U.S. Census

South Carolina Employment

Non-Seasonally Adjusted Wage and Salary Employment

In September, total nonfarm employment fell 0.73% from the previous month, a total of 14,400 non-seasonally adjusted jobs. The downturn was led by losses in the Accommodation and Food Services industry which shed 11,500 jobs, due in part to seasonal factors as well as the slowing national economy. Retail Trade shed 3,000 jobs, while State and Local Government added 4,600 jobs.

Despite this employment decline, the state unemployment rate decreased by 0.3% to a seasonally adjusted 7.3%. The decline was due to a decrease in the number of unemployed driven by reductions in overall state labor force participation. Meanwhile, the number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals was approximately flat, adding just over 600 jobs.

Industry Sector	September 2008	August 2008	September 2007	% Change Month Ago	% Change Year Ago
Goods Producing	357,400	359,700	383,400	-0.64	-6.78
Natural Resources and Mining	4,400	4,400	4,600	0.00	-4.35
Construction	111,700	112,400	129,500	-0.62	-13.75
Construction of Buildings	30,100	30,300	32,200	-0.66	-6.52
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	16,200	16,700	18,300	-2.99	-11.48
Specialty Trade Contractors	65,400	65,400	79,000	0.00	-17.22
Manufacturing	241,300	242,900	249,300	-0.66	-3.21
Durable Goods	132,800	133,800	138,100	-0.75	-3.84
Nondurable Goods	108,500	109,100	111,200	-0.55	-2.43
Service Providing	1,593,100	1,606,200	1,580,000	-0.82	0.83
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	371,000	374,300	375,600	-0.88	-1.22
Wholesale Trade	71,500	71,800	72,100	-0.42	-0.83
Retail Trade	232,200	235,200	236,700	-1.28	-1.90
Transportation Warehousing and Utilities	67,300	67,300	66,800	0.00	0.75
Information	27,500	27,400	28,000	0.36	-1.79
Finance	108,300	109,000	107,200	-0.64	1.03
Finance and Insurance	76,400	76,100	76,000	0.39	0.53
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	31,900	32,900	31,200	-3.04	2.24
Professional and Business Services	225,800	228,300	229,600	-1.10	-1.66
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	74,300	75,600	72,600	-1.72	2.34
Management of Companies and Enterprises	15,600	15,900	15,800	-1.89	-1.27
Administrative and Support and Waste Man	135,900	136,800	141,200	-0.66	-3.75
Educational and Health Services	209,500	208,100	203,700	0.67	2.85
Leisure and Hospitality	226,000	237,300	221,300	-4.76	2.12
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	29,500	29,300	28,600	0.68	3.15
Accommodation and Food Services	196,500	208,000	192,700	-5.53	1.97
Other Services	74,100	75,500	73,800	-1.85	0.41
Total Private	1,599,600	1,619,600	1,622,600	-1.23	-1.42
Government	350,900	346,300	340,800	1.33	2.96
Federal Government	29,900	30,100	29,800	-0.66	0.34
State Government	100,500	97,000	98,800	3.61	1.72
Local Government	220,500	219,200	212,200	0.59	3.91
Total Nonfarm	1,950,500	1,964,900	1,963,400	-0.73	-0.66

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

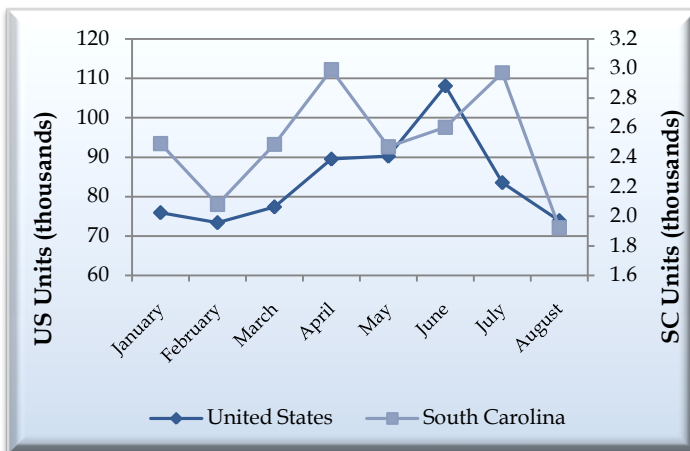
South Carolina Real Estate

While home closings continued their monthly decline, median sales price held steady for September. For 2Q 2008, national home prices declined 7.6% according to the National Association of Realtors. Foreclosures rose substantially in 2008, following the national trend. According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, foreclosure starts make up 0.76% of total loans in South Carolina and 1.08% of total loans nationally in 2Q 2008.

	Month	Current	Previous Year	% Change Year Ago	2007 YTD	2008 YTD	% Change Year Ago
Closings	Sept	3,816	4,718	-19.1%	49,030	37,696	-23.1%
Median Sales Price*	Sept	1,549.0	1,599.0	-3.1%	160.0	155.0	-3.1%
Foreclosures	Sept	2,202	435	406.2%	3,437	10,271	198.8%
Residential Building Permits-Total	Aug	1,922	2,911	-34.0%	29,033	20,031	-31.0%
Residential Building Permits-Valuation*	Aug	303,681	428,339	-29.1%	4,396,726	3,264,953	-25.7%

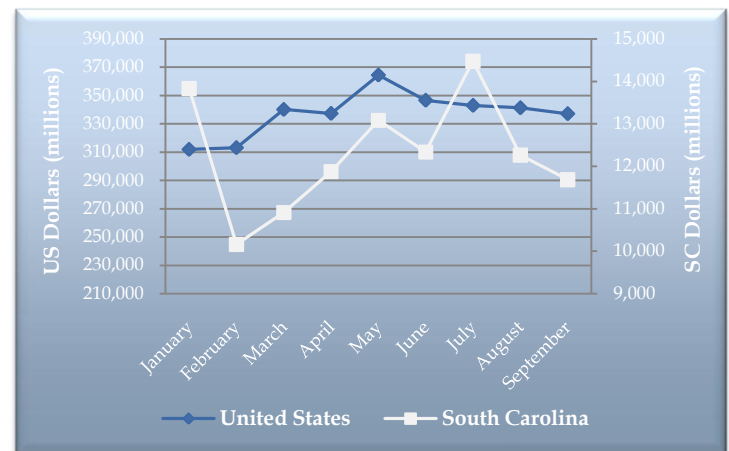
Source: S.C. Realtors, U.S. Census, RealtyTrac
 * Thousands of U.S. dollars.

Residential Building Permits, 2008



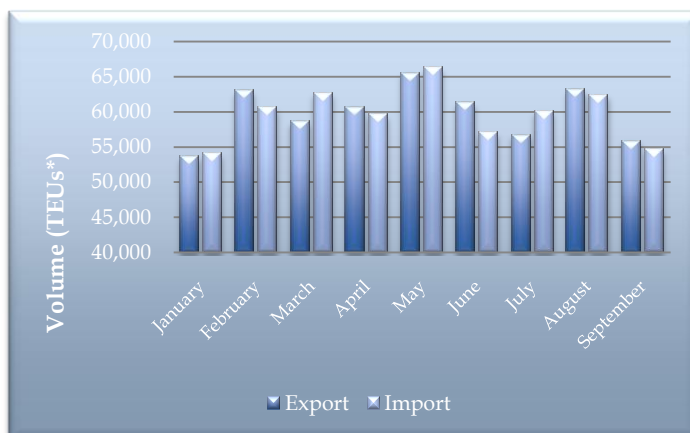
Source: U.S. Census

Retail Sales, 2008



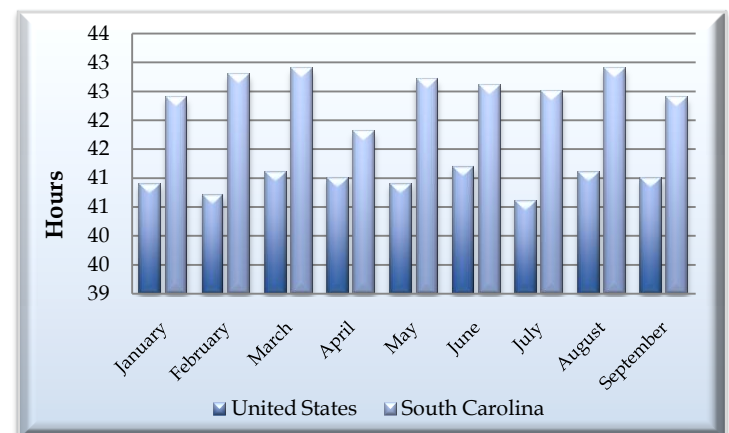
Source: S.C. Department of Revenue

Port of Charleston, 2008



Source: SC. Ports Authority
 *Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units

Average Weekly Hours Worked*, 2008



Source: U.S. Department of Labor
 *For manufacturing sector