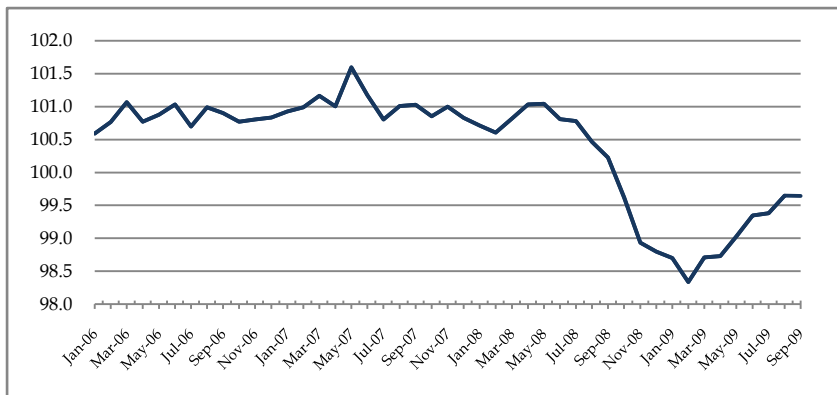


S.C. Leading Index Levels Off

The South Carolina Leading Index (SCLI) ceased its six month run of rapid advancement, largely leveling off in September to 99.07. This value represents a 0.05 percent decline over a revised August value of 99.12, in the index that is designed to forecast the state's economic status for the coming three-to-six months. Of the factors composing the SCLI, just over half experienced increases throughout the month, while the remaining declined. While the average weekly number of people applying for Unemployment Insurance fell 14.3 percent and weekly manufacturing hours rose 0.2 percent, issuance of residential building permits declined 13.3 percent.

Import and export volume at the Port of Charleston increased in September, and the value of exported goods produced in South Carolina increased 8.2 percent in the second quarter over the first. Second quarter state personal income figures were released this month, and while South Carolina's total income increased 0.70 percent (versus a national increase of 0.17 percent), the majority of the gains came from increases in transfer payments.

-Rebecca M. Gunnlaugsson, Ph.D.



Source: South Carolina Department of Commerce

S.C. Economic Outlook Anniversary Issue

October 2009 marks the one year anniversary of the publication of the monthly South Carolina Economic Outlook. This anniversary issue offers expanded statewide economic data as well as a new regional page, charting the status of South Carolina's six largest metropolitan areas. As this periodical continues to mature over time, additional features and improvements will be incorporated continuously to ensure its mission of delivering comprehensive, timely coverage of the South Carolina economy.

The South Carolina Department of Commerce's Research Division is a highly-skilled, multidisciplinary group of professionals dedicated to the collection, analysis and dissemination of precise, timely data. The team of 13 individuals—including two Ph.D.s and seven Master's degrees—has experience ranging from economics and business to statistics, information technology, and more. The group integrates workforce and economic development research through the incorporation of federally-funded Labor Market Information directives and state-funded workforce and economic development initiatives. If you would like to receive Commerce's monthly Economic Outlook, e-mail EconomicOutlook@SCcommerce.com.

KEY S.C. INDICATORS

Income

-9.1%

Retail Sales

fell \$1.03 billion in September over August, and were down \$1.37 billion when compared to September 2008.

South Carolina Department of Revenue

+10.8%

South Carolina Stock Index

increased 2.77 index points to close at 81.94 the last day in September.

Bloomberg

Employment

Nonfarm Employment

increased by 2,500 jobs in September, driven by seasonal increases in local government.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

+0.1%

Labor Force

decreased by a seasonally-adjusted 2,851 people in September.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

-0.1%

Unemployment Rate

rose 0.2 points in September, from a downwardly revised August figure, to a seasonally adjusted rate of 11.6 percent.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

+0.2%

Manufacturing Weekly Hours

rose 0.1 hours, from a revised August figure, to 41.7 hours in September.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

+0.2%

-0.7%

Available Online Job Postings

decreased statewide in September by 300 jobs to 44,500 online job postings.

The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index

Real Estate

-6.2%

Single-Family Home Sales Price

fell in September to \$138,500, while closings fell 1.8 percent to 3,877 for the month.

South Carolina Association of Realtors

-13.3%

Building Permits

decreased 13.3 percent in September, or 212 permits, over the previous month.

U.S. Census

South Carolina Employment

Non-Seasonally Adjusted Wage and Salary Employment

Non-seasonally adjusted employment rose for the month of September by a total of approximately 2,500 workers. The majority of these added positions were the result of expansion of state and local government, as total private employment fell 14,700 positions yet government increased 17,200. Private job gains were concentrated in Wholesale Trade, Educational and Health Services, and Professional, Technical, and Business Services.

With the closing stages of the peak tourist period, 11,100 Leisure and Hospitality seasonal positions were shed in September. Additionally, a decline of 1,800 positions occurred in the Construction industry along with a decline of 1,100 in the Real Estate/Rental and Leasing industry.

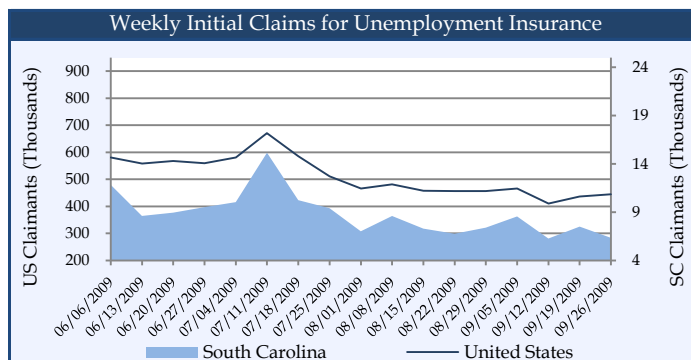
Industry Sector	September 2009	Previous Month	Previous Year	% Change Month Ago	% Change Year Ago
Goods Producing	313,500	315,900	360,200	-0.76	-12.97
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,100	4,200	0.00	-2.38
Construction	96,900	98,700	115,800	-1.82	-16.32
Construction of Buildings	24,200	25,000	29,300	-3.20	-17.41
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	13,300	13,500	15,600	-1.48	-14.74
Specialty Trade Contractors	59,400	60,200	70,900	-1.33	-16.22
Manufacturing	212,500	213,100	240,200	-0.28	-11.53
Durable Goods	116,400	117,000	134,900	-0.51	-13.71
Nondurable Goods	96,100	96,100	105,300	0.00	-8.74
Service Providing	1,537,500	1,532,600	1,559,500	0.32	-1.41
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	356,200	356,400	369,500	-0.06	-3.60
Wholesale Trade	68,700	67,100	0	2.38	-2.69
Retail Trade	224,900	226,000	235,100	-0.49	-4.34
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	62,600	63,300	63,800	-1.11	-1.88
Information	29,600	29,900	29,000	-1.00	2.07
Finance	102,100	103,500	105,900	-1.35	-3.59
Finance and Insurance	73,500	73,800	75,600	-0.41	-2.78
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	28,600	29,700	30,300	-3.70	-5.61
Professional and Business Services	219,800	218,300	217,600	0.69	1.01
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	78,300	76,700	73,500	2.09	6.53
Management of Companies and Enterprises	15,800	15,700	15,600	0.64	1.28
Administrative Support and Waste Management	125,700	125,900	128,500	-0.16	-2.18
Educational and Health Services	209,100	207,200	209,300	0.92	-0.10
Leisure and Hospitality	206,600	217,700	214,400	-5.10	-3.64
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	28,700	30,500	29,100	-5.90	-1.37
Accommodation and Food Services	177,900	187,200	185,300	-4.97	-3.99
Other Services	68,500	71,200	70,300	-3.79	-2.56
Total Private	1,505,400	1,520,100	1,576,200	-0.97	-4.49
Government	345,600	328,400	343,500	5.24	0.61
Federal Government	32,400	32,500	0	-0.31	6.23
State Government	99,100	95,200	101,300	4.10	-2.17
Local Government	214,100	200,700	211,700	6.68	1.13
Total Nonfarm	1,851,000	1,848,500	1,919,700	0.14	-3.58

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

Initial UI Claims Continue Decline in September

Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) continued a declining trend during the month of September, falling just below average levels of September of 2008.

Continued claims have also experienced a steady decline, both nationally and statewide. After peaking in July at 104,470, continued claims reached 82,625 the final week in September. Expansion of the federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation and the State Legislature's revision of the Extended Benefits program triggers are likely to affect these trends in the near future.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor



South Carolina Real Estate

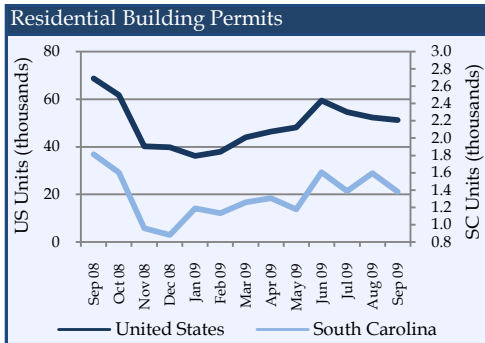
Residential home sales volume experienced a 1.6 percent increase, rising 61 units over September 2008. After a \$5,100 increase in median home sales price in August, the state witnessed median prices decline again in September, falling to \$138,500. This decline represents a 10.6 percent year-over-year decline. Foreclosures increased in September, rising 30.5 percent over the previous month.

Meanwhile, statewide residential building permits declined by 212 units in September, a 13.3 percent decline over August and a 23.7 percent decline over the previous year. Valuation of permits declined likewise, falling \$22.3 million over last month, to \$238.1 million, a level that is 18.1 percent below the same period last year.

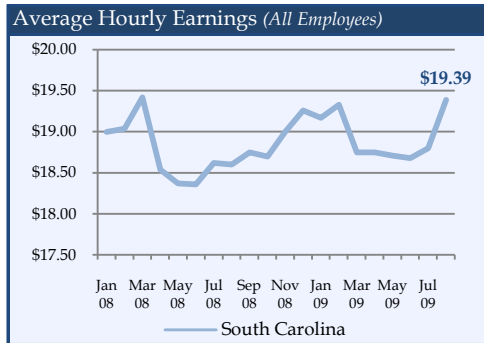
	Month	Current	Previous Year	% Change Year Ago	2009 YTD	2008 YTD	% Change Year Ago
Closings	September	3,877	3,816	1.6%	31,077	37,696	-17.6%
Median Sales Price*	September	138.5	154.9	-10.6%	142.0	155.0	-8.4%
Foreclosures	September	3,231	2,202	46.7%	22,536	10,271	119.4%
Residential Building Permits-Total	September	1,382	1,812	-23.7%	12,039	21,832	-44.9%
Residential Building Permits-Valuation*	September	238,183	290,923	-18.1%	1,986,225	3,544,068	-44.0%

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

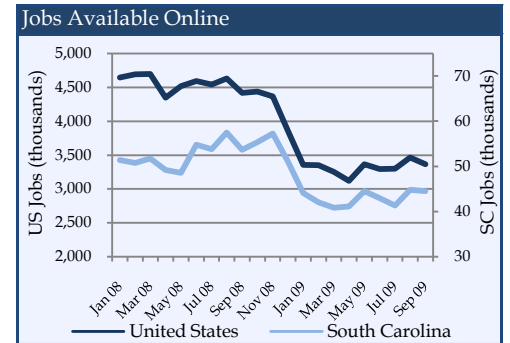
Business Activity



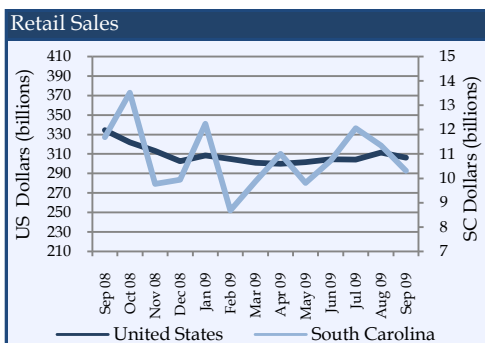
Source: U.S. Census



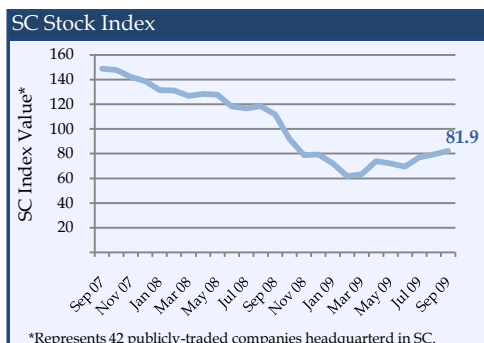
Source: U.S. Department of Labor



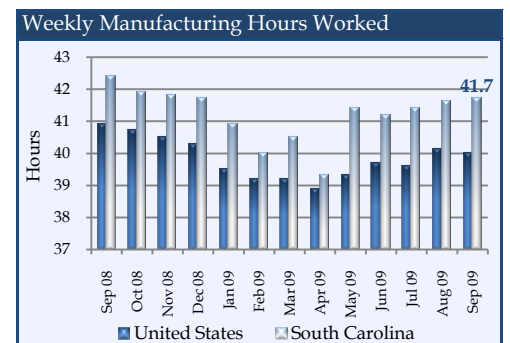
Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index



Source: South Carolina Department of Revenue

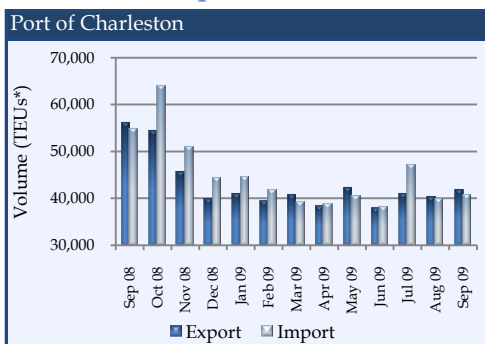


*Represents 42 publicly-traded companies headquartered in SC. Source: Bloomberg

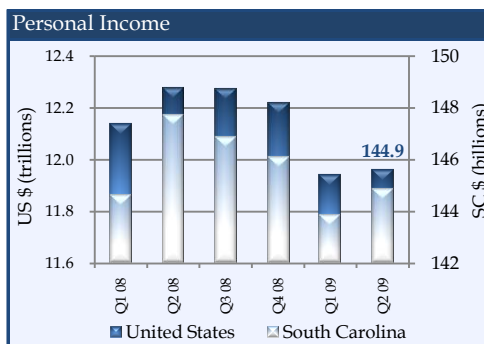


Source: U.S. Department of Labor

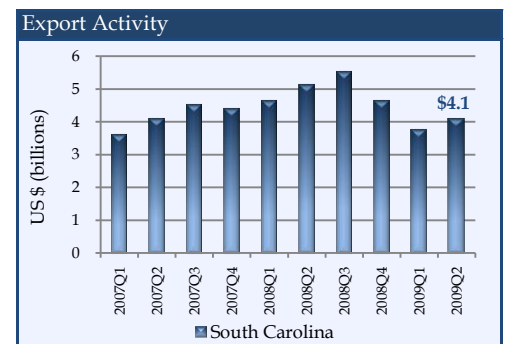
Trade and Exports



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



Source: U.S. Census



Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census

South Carolina Regional Update

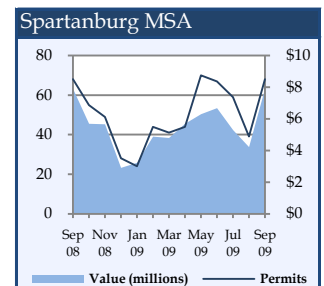
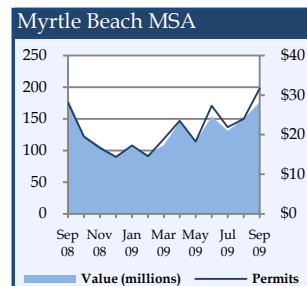
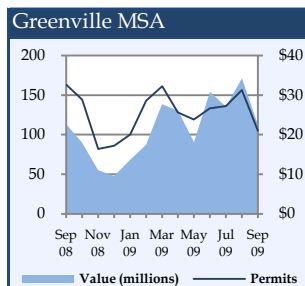
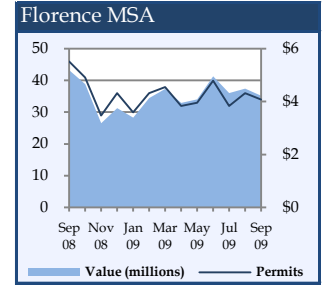
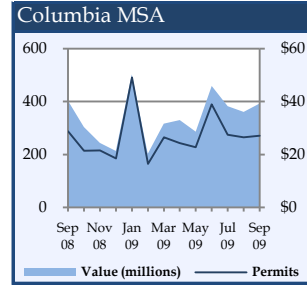
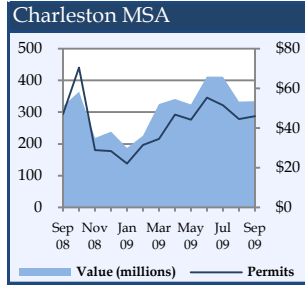
The South Carolina Regional Update provides a snapshot of the most recent economic figures for the six largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) in the state. In the recent Brookings Institute Second Quarter MetroMonitor, Columbia was ranked the 6th highest performing metropolitan area in surviving the recession.

Home Sales

MSA	Indicator	Sep 08	Sep 09
Charleston	Sales Volume	654	654
	Median Price (000's)	\$194	\$174
Columbia	Sales Volume	707	724
	Median Price (000's)	\$135	\$135
Florence	Sales Volume	166	142
	Median Price (000's)	\$118	\$109
Greenville	Sales Volume	608	597
	Median Price (000's)	\$147	\$140
Myrtle Beach	Sales Volume	434	528
	Median Price (000's)	\$174	\$150
Spartanburg	Sales Volume	262	229
	Median Price (000's)	\$120	\$119
South Carolina	Sales Volume	3,816	3,877
	Median Price (000's)	\$154.9	\$138.5

Source: S.C. Association of Realtors

Building Permits



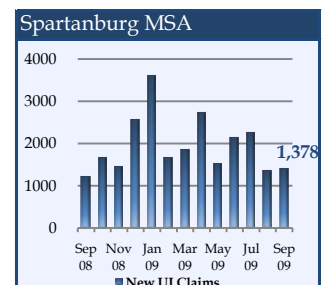
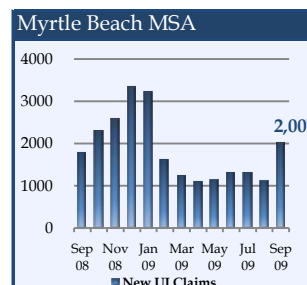
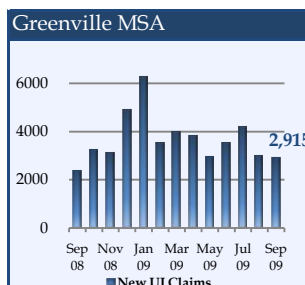
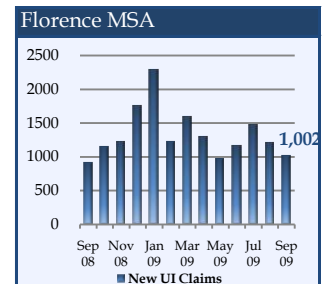
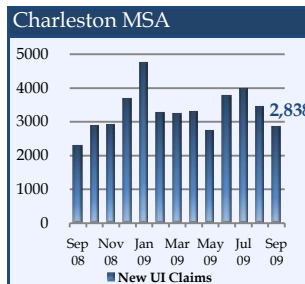
Source: U.S. Census

Employment

MSA	Indicator	Aug 09	Sep 09
Charleston	Employment (000's)	295.2	289.4
	Unemployment Rate	9.7	9.7
Columbia	Employment (000's)	345.6	341.0
	Unemployment Rate	9.3	9.4
Florence	Employment (000's)	87.3	85.4
	Unemployment Rate	12.0	12.1
Greenville	Employment (000's)	290.2	289.5
	Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.4
Myrtle Beach	Employment (000's)	120.4	117.0
	Unemployment Rate	10.4	10.9
Spartanburg	Employment (000's)	124.0	122.3
	Unemployment Rate	12.3	12.2
South Carolina	Employment (000's)	1,925.1	1,918.6
	Unemployment Rate	11.4	11.6

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (MSA figures not seasonally adjusted)

Unemployment Insurance Claims



Source: SCDOC analysis of SCESC data

Weekly Wages

\$729	\$728	\$661	\$706	\$525	\$749
Charleston	Columbia	Florence	Greenville	Myrtle Beach	Spartanburg

Reflects Average Weekly Wage (AWW) of all covered employers 1st Quarter 2009. Statewide AWW for the same period was \$692. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics