

INSIGHTS

Labor Market Information

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

July 2012

	United States	SC
Labor Force	155,013,000	2,143,275
Employed	142,220,000	1,936,801
Unemployed	12,794,000	206,474
Unemployment Rate	8.3%	9.6%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 976.39	\$ 716.35
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	41.6
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.99	\$ 17.22

Top Job Growth by MSA

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Spartanburg MSA	-0.91%	5.67%
Florence MSA	-1.40%	2.80%
Columbia MSA	-0.54%	2.77%
Charleston MSA	-0.46%	1.65%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2012	2011
U.S. Population Ratio	58.4%	58.2%
S.C. Population Ratio	53.1%	53.4%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	July	June	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	63.7%	63.8%	-0.1%
S.C. Participation Rate	58.8%	59.0%	-0.2%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	1.4%
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In the News

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Employment
11,231 ↓

Unemployment
4,040 ↑

Unemployment
Rate 0.2% ↑

Increase in Unemployment Rate

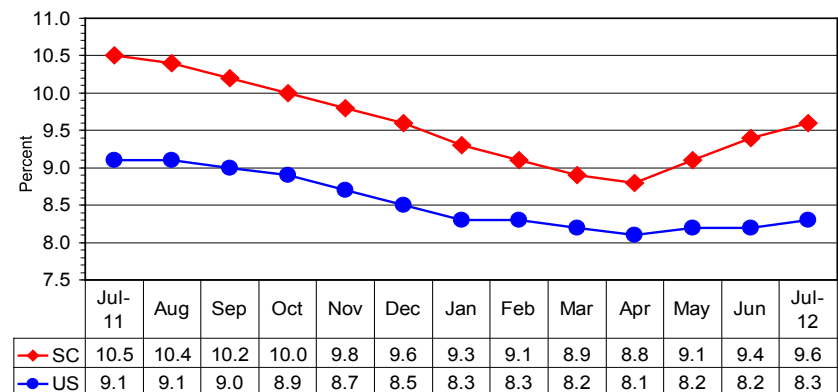
South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased for the third consecutive month, climbing from 9.4 percent in June to 9.6 percent in July. The estimated number of unemployed increased by 4,040 to 206,474. With fewer people working in July, employment dropped 11,231 to approximately 1,936,800. As a result, the state's overall labor force fell by an estimated 7,191 to 2,143,275 in July. This pattern follows the 2011 trend of falling employment and rising unemployment during the middle of the year.

Since July 2011, 15,800 people have left the labor force while an estimated 4,250 people have found work. The number of unemployed decreased by approximately 20,059 as the unemployment rate declined 0.9 percentage point from a year ago.

In July, the national unemployment rate increased slightly from 8.2 percent in June to 8.3 percent.

In early July, petroleum prices reversed their decline, while the nation experienced record temperatures resulting in drought conditions in many areas. In the future, both of these ongoing situations could affect consumers, especially for agricultural purchases and discretionary spending.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates
July 2011 through July 2012



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 2011 benchmark.

July Unemployment Rates by County

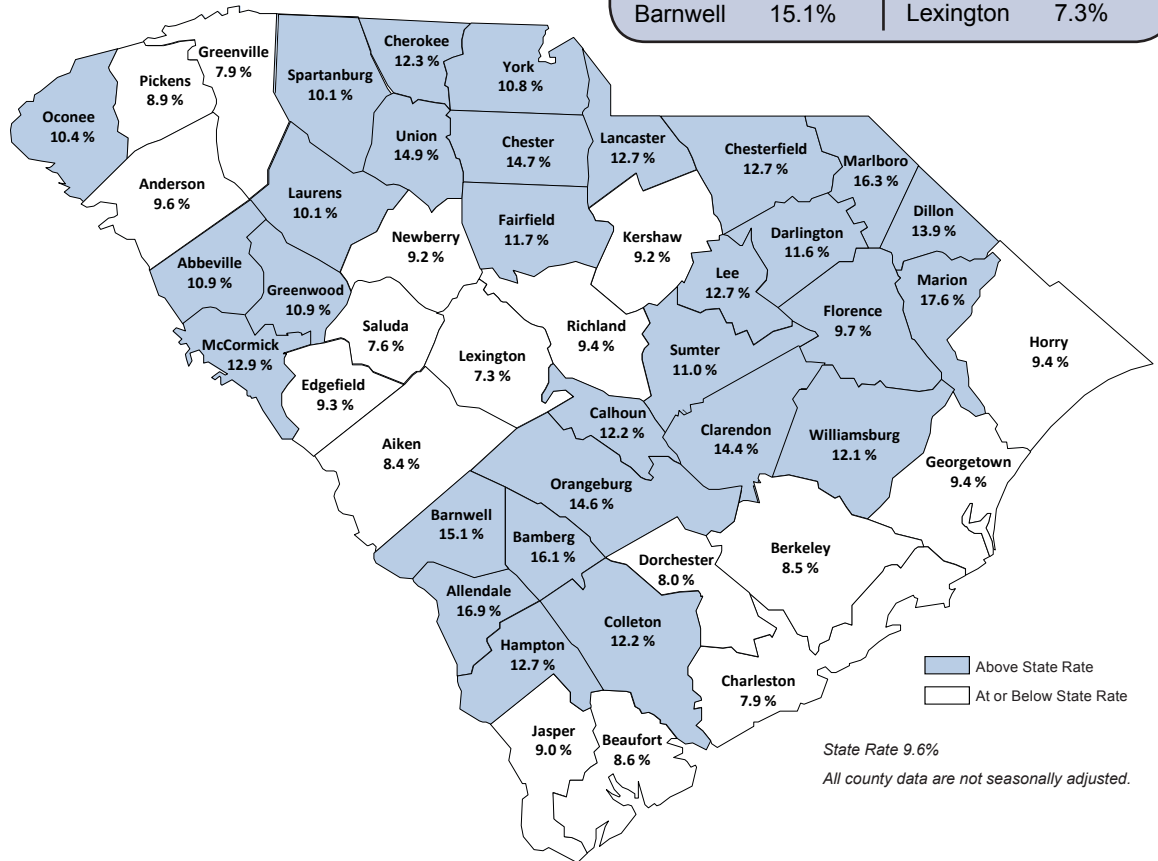
State Unemployment Rates

Nevada	12.0
Rhode Island	10.8
California	10.7
New Jersey	9.8
North Carolina	9.6
South Carolina	9.6
Georgia	9.3
Mississippi	9.1
New York	9.1
Michigan	9.0
D.C.	8.9
Illinois	8.9
Florida	8.8
Oregon	8.7
Connecticut	8.5
Washington	8.5
Tennessee	8.4
United States	8.3
Alabama	8.3
Arizona	8.3
Colorado	8.3
Kentucky	8.3
Indiana	8.2
Pennsylvania	7.9
Alaska	7.7
Louisiana	7.6
Maine	7.6
Idaho	7.5
West Virginia	7.4
Arkansas	7.3
Wisconsin	7.3
Missouri	7.2
Ohio	7.2
Texas	7.2
Maryland	7.0
Delaware	6.8
New Mexico	6.6
Hawaii	6.4
Montana	6.4
Kansas	6.3
Massachusetts	6.1
Utah	6.0
Virginia	5.9
Minnesota	5.8
Wyoming	5.6
New Hampshire	5.4
Iowa	5.3
Vermont	5.0
Oklahoma	4.9
South Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	4.0
North Dakota	3.0

Thirty-six of the 46 counties in South Carolina saw decreases in their unemployment rates for July. Barnwell and Allendale counties displayed no change and eight counties noted increases with Bamberg and Calhoun counties experiencing gains of 0.8 and 0.9 percentage points, respectively. The unemployment rate for Lexington remained the lowest at an estimated 7.3 percent, and the highest rate in the state was 17.6 percent in Marion.

Over the year, 45 counties had declines in their unemployment rate estimates. Spartanburg saw the largest increase in people finding work, as estimates showed an increase of 4,687 as service jobs grew over the year. Richland followed with 3,475 people becoming employed. Horry saw the largest decline in people working with nearly 3,800 fewer people working than a year ago, mostly due to continued declines in retail trade activity in the Grand Strand area.

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	17.6%	Dorchester	8.0%
Allendale	16.9%	Charleston	7.9%
Marlboro	16.3%	Greenville	7.9%
Bamberg	16.1%	Saluda	7.6%
Barnwell	15.1%	Lexington	7.3%



South Carolina Ranked Sixth of Fifty-one in July

South Carolina's unemployment rate was ranked sixth in the nation for July, in a virtual tie with North Carolina. State unemployment rates were slightly higher in July. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 44 states recorded unemployment rate increases, two states and the District of Columbia posted rate decreases, and four states had no change.

Forty-four states and the District of Columbia registered unemployment rate decreases from a year ago, four states experienced increases, and two had no change. The national jobless rate, at 8.3 percent, was 0.8 percentage point lower than in July 2011.

Employment Changes by County May through July 2012

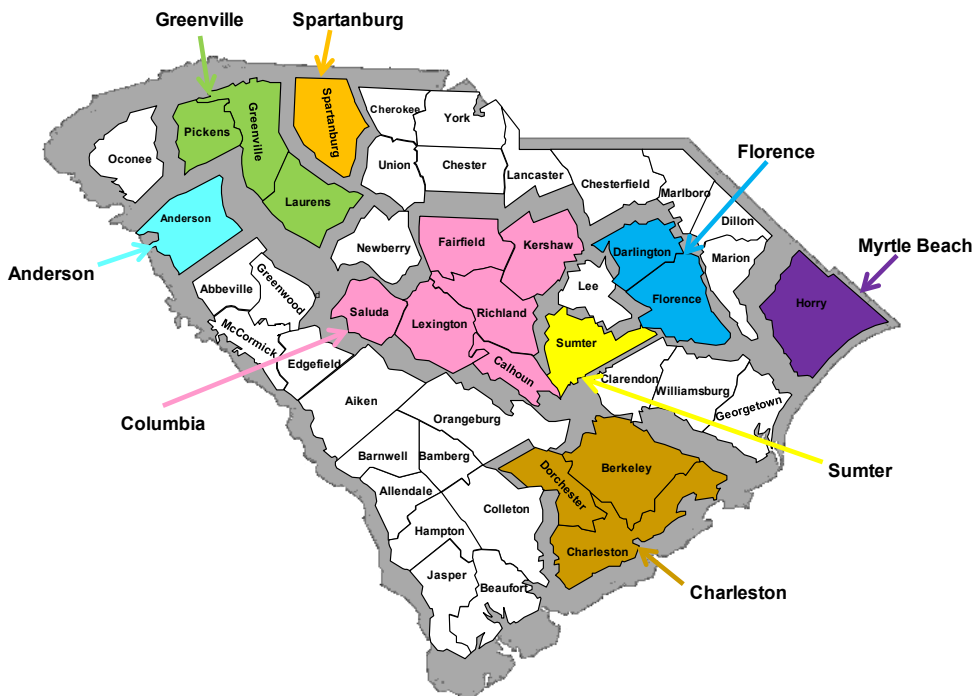
County	Employment			Net Change from:	
	July 2012	June 2012	May 2012	June-July 2012	May-June 2012
Abbeville	9,543	9,685	9,722	-142	-37
Aiken	68,144	67,884	68,116	260	-232
Allendale	2,782	2,821	2,842	-39	-21
Anderson	74,186	75,168	75,055	-982	113
Bamberg	5,304	5,362	5,406	-58	-44
Barnwell	7,183	7,259	7,298	-76	-39
Beaufort	59,261	60,113	60,272	-852	-159
Berkeley	78,624	78,484	77,618	140	866
Calhoun	6,084	6,068	6,080	16	-12
Charleston	165,835	165,540	163,713	295	1,827
Cherokee	21,692	21,962	22,063	-270	-101
Chester	12,357	12,530	12,607	-173	-77
Chesterfield	16,473	16,705	16,793	-232	-88
Clarendon	10,737	10,871	10,908	-134	-37
Colleton	15,214	15,402	15,432	-188	-30
Darlington	27,924	27,998	28,065	-74	-67
Dillon	11,411	11,532	11,626	-121	-94
Dorchester	64,287	64,172	63,464	115	708
Edgefield	10,019	9,981	10,015	38	-34
Fairfield	9,572	9,547	9,566	25	-19
Florence	57,639	57,793	57,931	-154	-138
Georgetown	27,236	27,507	27,529	-271	-22
Greenville	205,284	206,785	207,502	-1,501	-717
Greenwood	27,393	27,799	27,921	-406	-122
Hampton	6,794	6,889	6,928	-95	-39
Horry	121,800	120,292	118,874	1,508	1,418
Jasper	9,542	9,679	9,705	-137	-26
Kershaw	27,258	27,188	27,242	70	-54
Lancaster	26,719	27,100	27,239	-381	-139
Laurens	27,411	27,611	27,707	-200	-96
Lee	7,258	7,294	7,342	-36	-48
Lexington	124,666	124,342	124,591	324	-249
Marion	9,992	10,075	10,105	-83	-30
Marlboro	9,583	9,699	9,760	-116	-61
McCormick	2,893	2,921	2,943	-28	-22
Newberry	16,647	16,775	16,871	-128	-96
Oconee	28,070	28,445	28,561	-375	-116
Orangeburg	35,658	35,997	36,229	-339	-232
Pickens	52,500	52,884	53,067	-384	-183
Richland	167,524	167,089	167,424	435	-335
Saluda	8,385	8,363	8,380	22	-17
Spartanburg	121,096	121,315	121,600	-219	-285
Sumter	39,761	39,968	39,892	-207	76
Union	9,744	9,841	9,893	-97	-52
Williamsburg	14,307	14,462	14,513	-155	-51
York	97,761	99,265	99,744	-1,504	-479

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) July 2012



Catawba WIA	11.5%
www.catawbacog.org	
Greenville WIA	7.9%
www.greenvillewib.com	
Lowcountry WIA	9.6%
www.lowcountryworkforce.org	
Lower Savannah WIA	11.4%
www.lswia.org	
Midlands WIA	8.6%
www.midlandsworkforce.org	
Pee Dee WIA	12.0%
www.peedeewib.org	
Santee-Lynches WIA	11.0%
www.slworkforcedev.org	
Trident WIA	8.1%
www.toscc.org	
Upper Savannah WIA	10.1%
www.us1stops.com	
Upstate WIA	10.7%
www.upstatewib.org	
Waccamaw WIA	9.7%
www.wrcog.org	
WorkLink WIA	9.5%
www.worklinkweb.com	

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) July 2012



Anderson MSA	9.6%
Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville MSA	8.1%
Columbia MSA	8.7%
Florence MSA	10.4%
Greenville MSA	8.3%
Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway MSA	9.4%
Spartanburg MSA	10.1%
Sumter MSA	11.0%

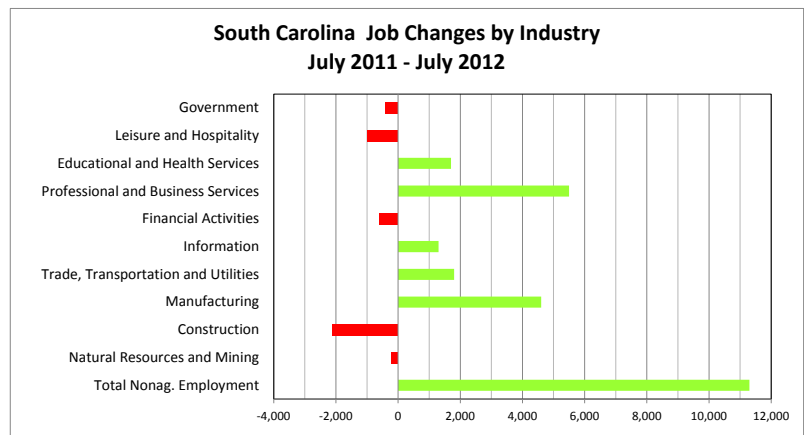
South Carolina Employment Trends

Historically, July estimates decline for nonfarm jobs. Schools close for the summer and some manufacturing sites conduct annual maintenance. This July was no different. Nonfarm payroll jobs (not seasonally adjusted) fell by 22,700 from June, with the majority of the decrease in Government (-15,300). Other sectors falling this month include Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-3,000, mostly in Retail Trade), Professional and Business Services (-1,700), and Manufacturing (-1,600). Employment in the Construction industry moved downward (-800) after four consecutive monthly increases. Education and Health Services jobs declined by 400 as private educational schools and Ambulatory Health Care Services declined. The Information sector experienced the only increase (+200).

Since July 2011, nonfarm employment saw an overall increase of 11,300 jobs. Professional and Business Services reported a gain over the year (+5,500), mostly in Temporary Employment Services. The Manufacturing sector also grew 4,600 from a year ago. Sectors that showed losses in employment during the past year include Construction (-2,100), Leisure and Hospitality (-1,000) and Financial Activities (-600).

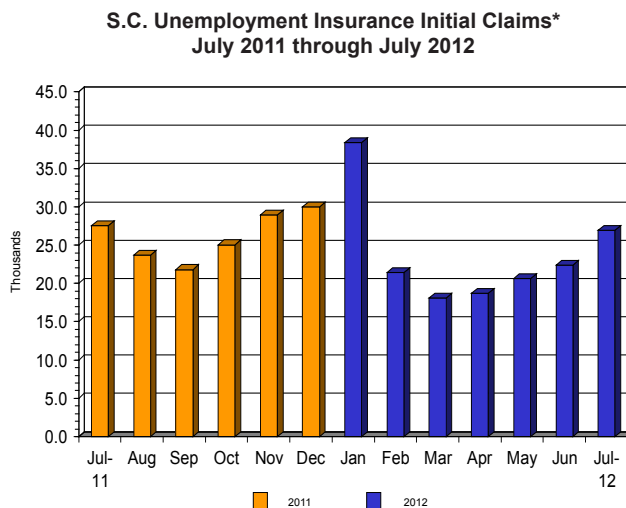
Over the year, metropolitan statistical areas have seen growth: Charleston (+4,900), Columbia (+9,500), Florence (+2,300), and Spartanburg (+6,400). Sumter was nearly flat (-100) and Anderson was down over 900, mainly due to a drop in service-related jobs. Jobs in Myrtle Beach have fallen by approximately 3,300, largely due to Retail Trade decreases, and Greenville has lost about 3,100 Goods Producing jobs over the year.

Estimates showed the state's average weekly manufacturing hours decreased by 0.3 hour over the month. Hourly wages increased by \$0.11. Over the year, hours have fallen by 0.5 hour and hourly wages improved by \$0.49.



July Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's initial claims for July followed its annual trend with numbers climbing. Total initial claims rose 4,559 from the previous month to 26,904. However, this was a decline of 631 from July of last year. Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits paid fell approximately \$6.7 million since last month, and decreased over \$7.6 million from a year ago. Approximately 400 more individuals exhausted their unemployment benefits in July than did in June of this year. The average duration of benefits dropped by nearly two weeks from this time last year.



Total Initial Claims*	26,904
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$29,235,366
UI Benefits Exhausted	4,897
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	14.1
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$240.78

* All programs

Labor Supply Versus Labor Demand

SC Workforce Areas:

Catawba

Chester County
Lancaster County
York County

Greenville

Greenville County

Lowcountry

Beaufort County
Colleton County
Hampton County
Jasper County

Lower Savannah

Aiken County
Allendale County
Bamberg County
Barnwell County
Calhoun County
Orangeburg County

Midlands

Fairfield County
Lexington County
Richland County

Pee Dee

Chesterfield County
Darlington County
Dillon County
Florence County
Marion County
Marlboro County

Santee-Lynches

Clarendon County
Kershaw County
Lee County
Sumter County

Trident

Berkeley County
Charleston County
Dorchester County

Upper Savannah

Abbeville County
Edgefield County
Greenwood County
Laurens County
McCormick County
Newberry County
Saluda County

Upstate

Cherokee County
Spartanburg County
Union County

Waccamaw

Georgetown County
Horry County
Williamsburg County

WorkLink

Anderson County
Oconee County
Pickens County

South Carolina's online advertised vacancies dwindled by 2,200 in July to 55,300, according to The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series. Across the United States, job postings displayed a similar trend of decline (-153,600) during July. Labor demand was greatest in the Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties) with 13,598 advertisements. The Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland counties) followed with 12,776 ads during July. Statewide, the rate of available jobseekers per online advertised openings rose 0.2 to 3.7 from the previous month. Compared to a year ago, online ads were 7,100 higher in July 2012.

Of all online ads, the Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations had the highest number of statewide advertisements during the month with 9,909. This was a 5.9 percent increase compared to the same time last year.

The top five online advertisements in South Carolina for July included:

1. Registered Nurses
2. First-Line Supervisors & Managers of Retail Sales Workers
3. Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer
4. Retail Salespersons
5. Physical Therapists

The table below shows a breakdown of numbers and a ratio of jobseekers to job openings by workforce area.

Workforce Areas July 2012 Data	Job Openings	Jobseekers	Jobseekers Per Opening Ratio
Catawba	2,769	17,786	6:1
Greenville	10,491	17,677	2:1
Lowcountry	3,179	9,591	3:1
Lower Savannah	1,944	16,026	8:1
Midlands	12,776	28,316	2:1
Pee Dee	3,147	18,132	6:1
Santee-Lynches	1,495	10,558	7:1
Trident	13,598	27,264	2:1
Upper Savannah	1,138	11,440	10:1
Upstate	3,373	18,362	5:1
Waccamaw	5,455	17,480	3:1
Worklink	2,769	16,230	6:1
South Carolina (SC)	55,300 (SA)	206,474 (SA)	4:1
United States (U.S.)	4,793,500 (SA)	12,800,000 (SA)	3:1

SA=Seasonally Adjusted

The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series measures online jobs from about 16,000 major Internet job sites and smaller job sites that serve niche markets and smaller geographic areas. The online series counts the number of online job advertisements, which may or may not have multiple job openings. The level of ads in print and online can change for reasons not related to overall job demand.

Sources:

- The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series;
- The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information