

# INSIGHTS

## Labor Market Information

## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### Economic Indicators

August 2012

	United States	SC
Labor Force	154,645,000	2,131,536
Employed	142,101,000	1,926,595
Unemployed	12,544,000	204,941
Unemployment Rate	8.1%	9.6%

### Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 972.41	\$ 713.14
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.5	41.9
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 24.01	\$ 17.02

### Top Job Growth by MSA

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Spartanburg MSA	1.85%	5.48%
Florence MSA	0.60%	2.68%
Columbia MSA	-0.09%	2.56%
Sumter MSA	0.55%	2.22%

### Employment to Population Ratio

	2012	2011
U.S. Population Ratio	58.3%	58.3%
S.C. Population Ratio	52.8%	53.4%

### Labor Force Participation Rate

	August	July	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	63.5%	63.7%	-0.2%
S.C. Participation Rate	58.4%	58.8%	-0.4%

### United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	1.7%
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### In the News

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Employment  
10,347

Unemployment  
2,021

Unemployment  
Rate 0.1%

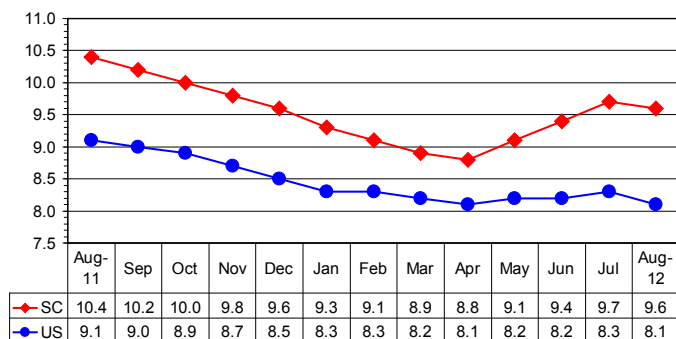
## Unemployment Rate Nearly Unchanged

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate estimate was essentially unchanged, dropping to 9.6% in August from a revised rate of 9.7 percent in July. The number of unemployed dipped by 2,021 to 204,941, while employment decreased for the fifth consecutive month, down by 10,347 to 1,926,595. These declines moved the labor force total down 12,368 to an estimated 2,131,536. Significantly, the labor force participation rate (58.4 percent) and the employment to population ratio (52.8 percent) were the lowest since 1976 (oldest data available).

Since August 2011, an estimated 8,029 fewer people were working in South Carolina. The number of unemployed dropped by 19,583 as the unemployment rate declined 0.8 of a percentage point from a year ago. About 27,612 people left the labor force in the past year. Nationally, the unemployment rate fell slightly in August to 8.1%, primarily driven by fewer people in the labor force.

Looking toward early autumn, many summer recreational areas across the state have reduced employment, and secondary schools, colleges, and universities will be back at their planned staffing levels. Business owners and managers will be studying sales projections and preparing operational budgets for 2013, with many questions on their minds - staffing needs being one of them. With gasoline prices near all-time highs for this time of year, potentially affecting discretionary spending, retailers will be carefully assessing the consumer's willingness to spend, and consequently, their hiring needs for the upcoming holiday season.

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



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*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.

## August Unemployment Rates by County

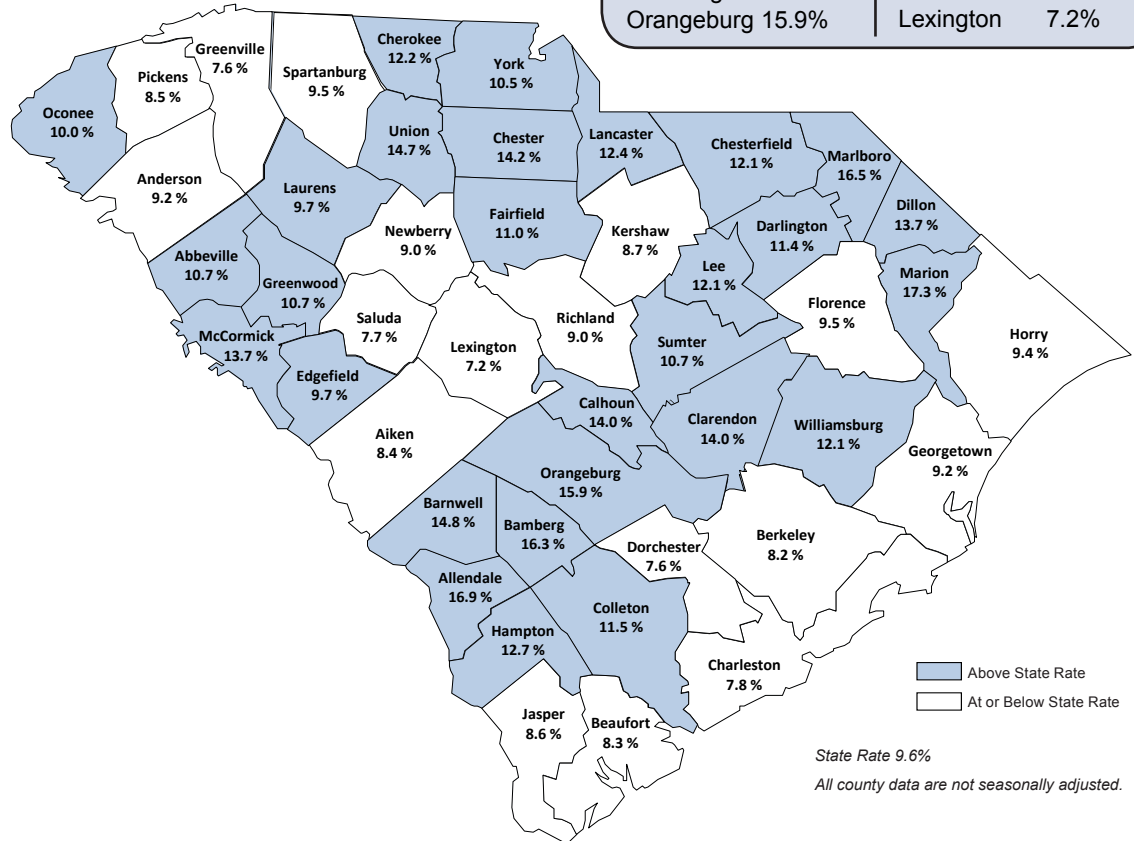
### State Unemployment Rates

Nevada	12.1
Rhode Island	10.7
California	10.6
New Jersey	9.9
North Carolina	9.7
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>9.6</b>
Michigan	9.4
Georgia	9.2
Illinois	9.1
Mississippi	9.1
New York	9.1
Connecticut	9.0
Oregon	8.9
D.C.	8.8
Florida	8.8
Washington	8.6
Alabama	8.5
Kentucky	8.5
Tennessee	8.5
Arizona	8.3
Indiana	8.3
Colorado	8.2
<b>United States</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Pennsylvania	8.1
Alaska	7.8
Maine	7.6
West Virginia	7.5
Wisconsin	7.5
Idaho	7.4
Louisiana	7.4
Arkansas	7.3
Missouri	7.2
Ohio	7.2
Maryland	7.1
Texas	7.1
Delaware	6.9
New Mexico	6.5
Massachusetts	6.3
Montana	6.3
Kansas	6.2
Hawaii	6.1
Minnesota	5.9
Virginia	5.9
Utah	5.8
New Hampshire	5.7
Wyoming	5.7
Iowa	5.5
Vermont	5.3
Oklahoma	5.1
South Dakota	4.5
Nebraska	4.0
North Dakota	3.0

Not seasonally adjusted county rate estimates fell in 35 counties across the state. Seven counties recorded increases, with Orangeburg and Calhoun counties experiencing gains of 1.3 and 1.9 percentage points, respectively. Four counties had no change. The unemployment rate for Lexington remained the lowest at 7.2 percent. Marion had the highest in the state with approximately 17.3 percent.

Since last August, 44 counties have seen a decrease in their unemployment rate estimates. Spartanburg had the largest increase in people finding work with an estimated boost of 3,891 as service and manufacturing jobs rose over the year. Richland followed with nearly 2,150 finding work. Horry saw the largest reduction of people working, with an estimated 6,080 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	17.3%	Charleston	7.8%
Allendale	16.9%	Saluda	7.7%
Marlboro	16.5%	Dorchester	7.6%
Bamberg	16.3%	Greenville	7.6%
Orangeburg	15.9%	Lexington	7.2%



### South Carolina Ranked Sixth of Fifty-one in August

South Carolina's unemployment rate ranked sixth in the nation for August. State unemployment rates were generally consistent in August. Twenty-six states recorded unemployment rate increases, 12 states and the District of Columbia posted rate decreases, and 12 states had no change.

Forty-two states and the District of Columbia registered unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, seven states experienced increases, and one had no change. The national jobless rate edged down to 8.1 percent from July, and was 1.0 percentage point lower than in August 2011.

## Employment Changes by County June through August 2012

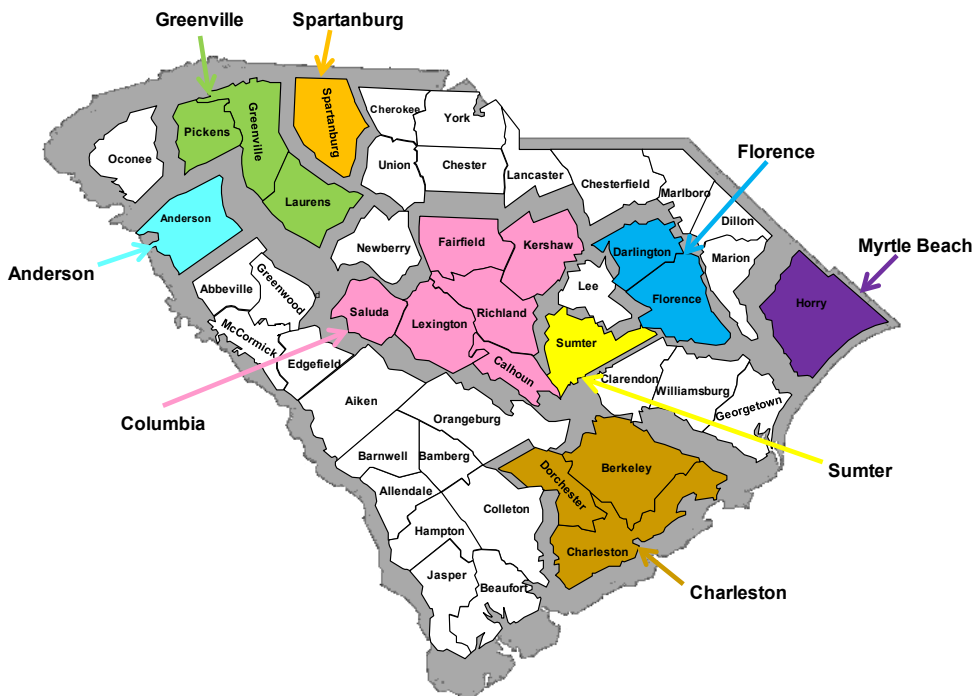
County	Employment			Net Change from:	
	Aug 2012	Jul 2012	Jun 2012	Jul-Aug 2012	Jun-Jul 2012
Abbeville	9,404	9,550	9,685	-146	-135
Aiken	67,550	68,129	67,884	-579	245
Allendale	2,718	2,786	2,821	-68	-35
Anderson	73,424	74,226	75,168	-802	-942
Bamberg	5,217	5,308	5,362	-91	-54
Barnwell	7,074	7,187	7,259	-113	-72
Beaufort	58,376	59,302	60,113	-926	-811
Berkeley	77,678	78,738	78,484	-1,060	254
Calhoun	6,006	6,087	6,068	-81	19
Charleston	163,841	166,075	165,540	-2,234	535
Cherokee	21,517	21,702	21,962	-185	-260
Chester	12,321	12,372	12,530	-51	-158
Chesterfield	16,265	16,479	16,705	-214	-226
Clarendon	10,539	10,737	10,871	-198	-134
Colleton	14,941	15,229	15,402	-288	-173
Darlington	27,545	27,767	27,998	-222	-231
Dillon	11,216	11,411	11,532	-195	-121
Dorchester	63,514	64,380	64,172	-866	208
Edgefield	9,932	10,017	9,981	-85	36
Fairfield	9,450	9,577	9,547	-127	30
Florence	56,857	57,315	57,793	-458	-478
Georgetown	26,661	27,242	27,507	-581	-265
Greenville	205,367	205,337	206,785	30	-1,448
Greenwood	27,024	27,412	27,799	-388	-387
Hampton	6,665	6,798	6,889	-133	-91
Horry	118,061	121,617	120,292	-3,556	1,325
Jasper	9,399	9,548	9,679	-149	-131
Kershaw	26,911	27,274	27,188	-363	86
Lancaster	26,586	26,747	27,100	-161	-353
Laurens	27,422	27,418	27,611	4	-193
Lee	7,128	7,254	7,294	-126	-40
Lexington	123,078	124,736	124,342	-1,658	394
Marion	9,775	9,983	10,075	-208	-92
Marlboro	9,459	9,587	9,699	-128	-112
McCormick	2,854	2,895	2,921	-41	-26
Newberry	16,408	16,660	16,775	-252	-115
Oconee	27,721	28,088	28,445	-367	-357
Orangeburg	35,120	35,686	35,997	-566	-311
Pickens	52,521	52,514	52,884	7	-370
Richland	165,390	167,618	167,089	-2,228	529
Saluda	8,278	8,390	8,363	-112	27
Spartanburg	121,611	120,993	121,315	618	-322
Sumter	39,418	39,734	39,968	-316	-234
Union	9,661	9,746	9,841	-85	-95
Williamsburg	14,014	14,306	14,462	-292	-156
York	99,043	97,940	99,265	1,103	-1,325

## Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) August 2012



Catawba WIA	11.2%
<a href="http://www.catawbacog.org">www.catawbacog.org</a>	
Greenville WIA	7.6%
<a href="http://www.greenvillewib.com">www.greenvillewib.com</a>	
Lowcountry WIA	9.2%
<a href="http://www.lowcountryworkforce.org">www.lowcountryworkforce.org</a>	
Lower Savannah WIA	11.8%
<a href="http://www.lswia.org">www.lswia.org</a>	
Midlands WIA	8.3%
<a href="http://www.midlandsworkforce.org">www.midlandsworkforce.org</a>	
Pee Dee WIA	11.8%
<a href="http://www.peedeewib.org">www.peedeewib.org</a>	
Santee-Lynches WIA	10.6%
<a href="http://www.slworkforcedev.org">www.slworkforcedev.org</a>	
Trident WIA	7.9%
<a href="http://www.toscc.org">www.toscc.org</a>	
Upper Savannah WIA	9.9%
<a href="http://www.us1stops.com">www.us1stops.com</a>	
Upstate WIA	10.2%
<a href="http://www.upstatewib.org">www.upstatewib.org</a>	
Waccamaw WIA	9.6%
<a href="http://www.wrcog.org">www.wrcog.org</a>	
WorkLink WIA	9.1%
<a href="http://www.worklinkweb.com">www.worklinkweb.com</a>	

## Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) August 2012



Anderson MSA	9.2%
Charleston- North Charleston- Summerville MSA	7.9%
Columbia MSA	8.4%
Florence MSA	10.2%
Greenville MSA	7.9%
Myrtle Beach- North Myrtle Beach- Conway MSA	9.4%
Spartanburg MSA	9.5%
Sumter MSA	10.7%

## South Carolina Employment Trends

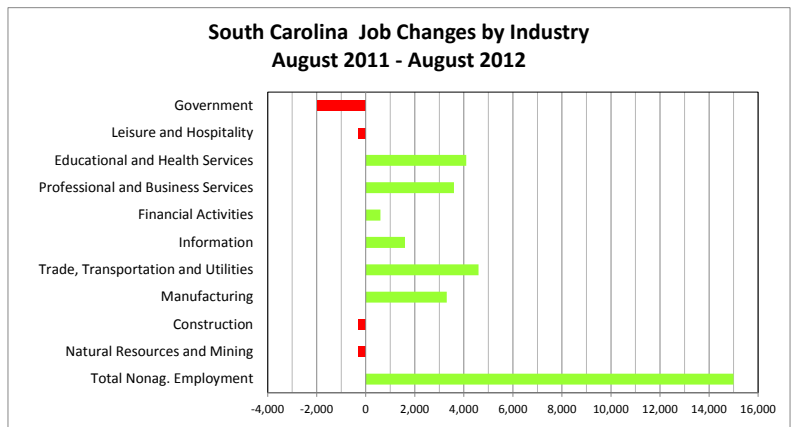
Nonfarm payroll jobs (not seasonally adjusted) grew by 2,400 from July to August, with the majority of the increase in Government (2,200), as state and local schools began augmenting staff for the opening day of the school year. Also increasing was the Education and Health Services sector (+1,400) as private schools and ambulatory health care services rebounded in August. Financial Activities had an upturn (+1,100), and there were small gains in Construction (+800) and Information (+800). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities payrolls increased by 300. Employment in Professional and Business Services and Leisure and Hospitality fell -2,000 and -1,600, respectively. Manufacturing declined by 400 jobs. Other Services related employment declined by 200 jobs, while Natural Resources and Mining Activity remained unchanged.

In the past year, nonfarm employment saw an overall increase of 15,000 jobs. Durable Goods Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, Professional and Business Services, and Transportation and Warehousing continue to lead the path forward. Information gained 1,600 jobs, Financial Activities employment increased (+600), and Other Services jobs (+100) also grew. Government had the largest decline since August 2011, losing -2,000 jobs.

Over the year, the metropolitan statistical areas of Charleston (5,900), Columbia (8,800), Florence (2,200), and Spartanburg (6,300) have experienced growth, as well as Sumter reporting a modest job increase (800).

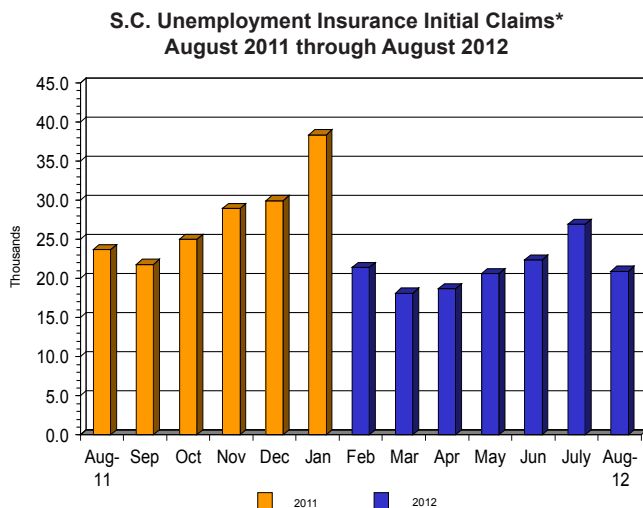
Anderson was down 900, mainly due to a decline in service-related jobs and Myrtle Beach area jobs have dropped by about 5,000, with retail trade decreases in the coastal area. A reduction in goods-producing jobs in the Greenville area moved that area's total down by 1,700.

The state's average weekly manufacturing hours increased by 0.2 hours since July 2012. Hourly wages fell slightly (-\$0.18). Over the year, hours have dropped by 0.5 hours with wages growing by \$0.39.



## August Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's initial claims for August experienced a significant decrease of 5,992 from the previous month, and 2,772 fewer claims than August of last year. Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits paid had a notable decline of approximately \$8.6 million since last month, and plummeted over \$17.1 million from a year ago. As fewer people were applying for unemployment benefits, the number of unemployment benefits exhaustions, those who have depleted the balance of their regular UI benefits, fell 1,632 since July and 2,230 since last August.



Total Initial Claims*	20,912
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$20,594,833
UI Benefits Exhausted	3,265
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	13.8
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$245.26

\* 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

According to The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series, South Carolina's online job advertisements saw a decrease of 300 ads from July to August. Compared to a year ago, there were approximately 6,600 more online ads in August 2012. Online ads across the United States experienced a decline of 108,700 from the previous month.

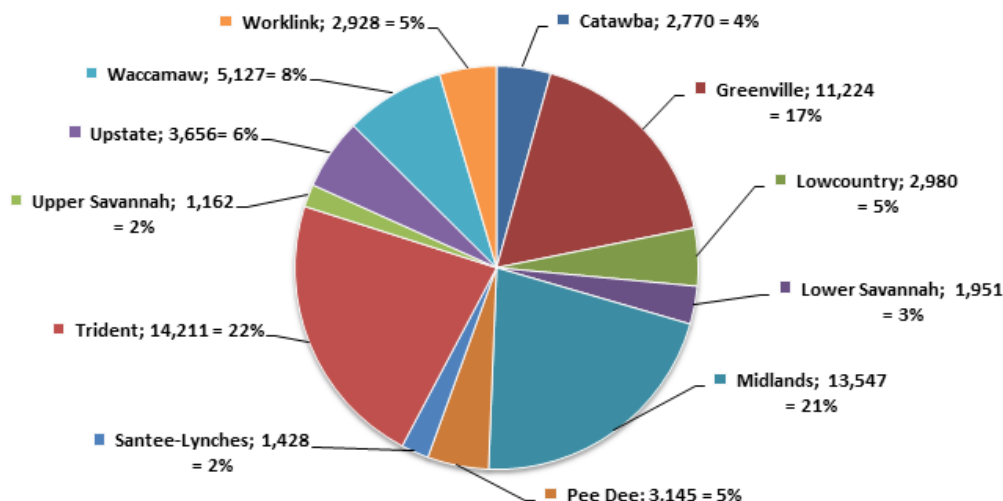
Labor demand was greatest in the Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties) with 14,211 advertisements. The Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland counties) followed with 13,547 ads during August. Statewide, the number of jobseekers per opening remained at 3.7 this past month.

Of all online ads, the Sales and Related Occupations group had the highest number of statewide advertisements during the month with 9,853. This was a 28.8 percent increase compared to the same time last year.

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

1. Registered Nurses = 3,135
2. First-Line Supervisors & Managers of Retail Sales Workers = 2,799
3. Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer = 2,528
4. Retail Salespersons = 1,841
5. Physical Therapists = 1,478

South Carolina Job Advertisements by Workforce Area



This table shows a breakdown of data and a ratio of jobseekers to job openings by workforce area.

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 HWOL published levels are rounded to the nearest hundred, including the measures of change.

**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

Workforce Areas	Job Openings	Jobseekers	Jobseekers Per Opening Ratio
August 2012 Data			
Catawba	2,770	17,398	6:1
Greenville	11,224	16,744	2:1
Lowcountry	2,980	9,064	3:1
Lower Savannah	1,951	16,585	9:1
Midlands	13,547	27,013	2:1
Pee Dee	3,145	17,502	6:1
Santee-Lynches	1,428	9,986	7:1
Trident	14,211	26,019	2:1
Upper Savannah	1,162	11,122	10:1
Upstate	3,656	17,380	5:1
Waccamaw	5,127	16,883	3:1
Worklink	2,928	15,392	5:1
South Carolina (SC)	55,100 (SA)	204,941 (SA)	4:1
United States (U.S.)	4,684,800 (SA)	12,500,000 (SA)	3:1

SA=Seasonally Adjusted