

INSIGHTS

Labor Market Information

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

March 2013 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	155,028,000	2,175,091
Employed	143,286,000	1,992,113
Unemployed	11,742,000	182,978
Unemployment Rate	7.6%	8.4%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 986.14	\$ 719.46
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.8	42.0
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 24.17	\$ 17.13

Top Job Growth by MSA

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Myrtle Beach MSA	3.92%	2.61%
Sumter MSA	1.08%	0.80%
Greenville MSA	0.75%	0.88%
Columbia MSA	0.56%	0.96%

Employment to Population Ratio (SA)

	2013	2012
U.S. Population Ratio	58.5%	58.5%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.1%	54.0%

Labor Force Participation Rate (SA)

	Mar.	Feb.	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	63.3%	63.5%	-0.2%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.0%	59.2%	-0.2%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	1.5%
--------------	------

HIGHLIGHTS

- Unemployment rate drops from 8.6 to 8.4 percent
- Number of employed grew for ninth consecutive month
- Seasonal employment picking up
- Small losses in Construction, Information, and Education and Health Services

View the

[S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment
520



Unemployment
4,095



Unemployment
Rate 0.2%



Unemployment Rate Down - Industry Employment Up 18,200

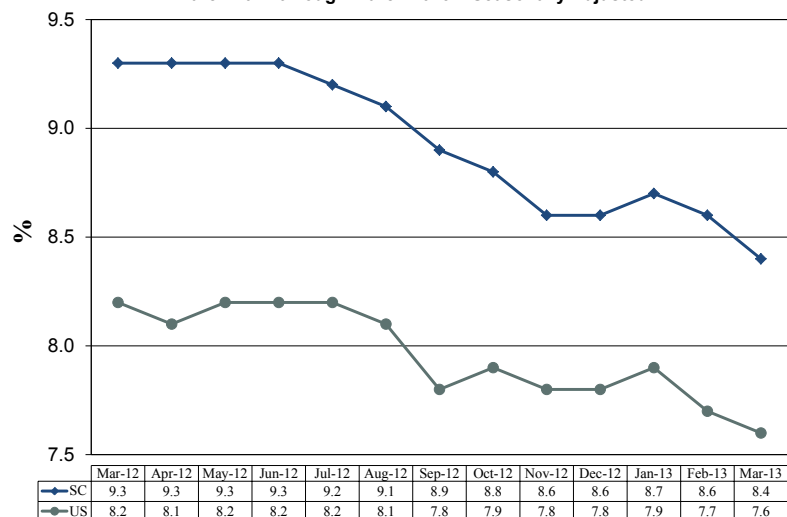
South Carolina's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 8.4 percent in March from February's rate of 8.6 percent. The number of employed people grew for the ninth consecutive month to 1,992,113. The number of unemployed people was 182,978, a decline of 4,095. Monthly labor force totals moved downward slightly by 3,575 to 2,175,091 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate fell from 7.7 percent in February to 7.6 percent in March.

Since March 2012, South Carolina's unemployment rate decreased by 0.9 percent, while the number of unemployed fell by 18,097. The level of employment increased by 24,300 and the labor force added 6,203 persons over the year. As the second quarter of 2013 approaches, the state looks to continue this steady improvement.

In March, seasonal employment picked up. Leisure and Hospitality hiring, as well as Retail Trade increases, especially in the coastal areas, should continue into late June. In the long term, the benefits of recent industrial announcements are expected to help goods-producing sectors as these sites ramp up production.

Unemployment Rates in South Carolina and The United States
March 2012 through March 2013 – Seasonally Adjusted



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 2012 benchmark.

South Carolina Ranked 11th of 51 in March

State Unemployment Rates	
Nevada	9.7
Illinois	9.5
California	9.4
Mississippi	9.4
North Carolina	9.2
Rhode Island	9.1
New Jersey	9.0
Indiana	8.7
D.C.	8.5
Michigan	8.5
Georgia	8.4
South Carolina	8.4
New York	8.2
Oregon	8.2
Connecticut	8.0
Kentucky	8.0
Arizona	7.9
Pennsylvania	7.9
Tennessee	7.9
United States	7.6
Florida	7.5
Deleware	7.3
Washington	7.3
Alabama	7.2
Arkansas	7.2
Colorado	7.1
Maine	7.1
Ohio	7.1
Wisconsin	7.1
West Virginia	7.0
New Mexico	6.9
Missouri	6.7
Maryland	6.6
Massachusetts	6.4
Texas	6.4
Alaska	6.2
Idaho	6.2
Louisiana	6.2
New Hampshire	5.7
Kansas	5.6
Montana	5.6
Minnesota	5.4
Virginia	5.3
Hawaii	5.1
Oklahoma	5.0
Iowa	4.9
Utah	4.9
Wyoming	4.9
South Dakota	4.3
Vermont	4.1
Nebraska	3.8
North Dakota	3.3

Thirteen states had statistically significant unemployment rate decreases, the remaining 37 states and the District of Columbia had jobless rates that were not measurably different from the prior month, reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **South Carolina's** rank tied for 11th in the nation. Thirty-nine states had unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier. The national jobless rate, 7.6 percent, edged down from February and was 0.6 percentage point lower than in March 2012.

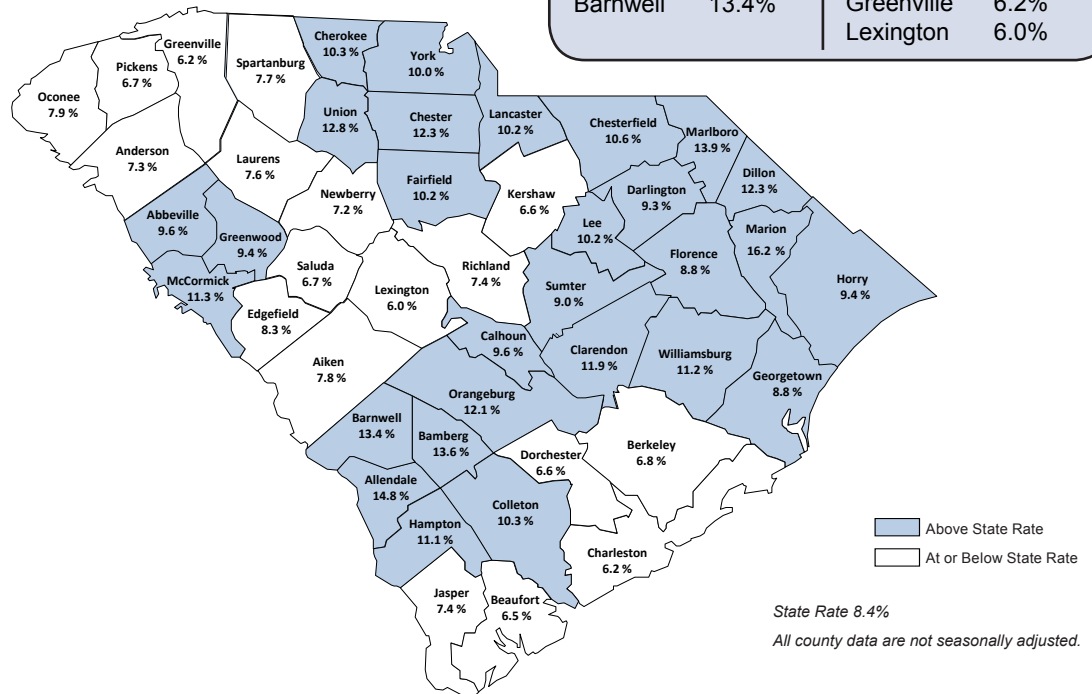
In March 2013, 11 states had statistically significant over-the-month changes in employment, four of which were increases. The largest job gains occurred in Florida (+32,700), California (+25,500), and Georgia (+13,600). The largest two employment decreases occurred in Ohio (-20,400), Illinois (-17,800) and Indiana (-12,400).

March Unemployment Rates by County

Over the month, unemployment rate estimates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in all 46 counties. Lexington County's unemployment rate remained the lowest at 6.0 percent, while Marion County was 16.2 percent, the highest in the state.

Since March 2012, county unemployment rates have dropped in 44 counties with the largest declines in Marlboro (-3.0 percent) and Fairfield (-2.8 percent) counties. Estimates show Beaufort (+4,360), Horry (+3,183), and Spartanburg (+1,933) counties have seen the largest increases in employment in the last year, while Orangeburg (-275), Abbeville (-182), Anderson (-145), Aiken (-95), and Edgefield (-14) have seen fewer people working.

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	16.2%	Dorchester	6.6%
Allendale	14.8%	Kershaw	6.6%
Marlboro	13.9%	Beaufort	6.5%
Bamberg	13.6%	Charleston	6.2%
Barnwell	13.4%	Greenville	6.2%
		Lexington	6.0%



Employment Changes by County January 2013 through March 2013

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Mar 2013	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb-Mar 2013	Jan-Feb 2013
Abbeville	9,819	9,726	9,638	93	88
Aiken	70,514	70,316	70,244	198	72
Allendale	2,740	2,710	2,694	30	16
Anderson	77,767	77,549	77,114	218	435
Bamberg	5,042	4,987	4,947	55	40
Barnwell	7,248	7,178	7,128	70	50
Beaufort	60,901	60,295	59,760	606	535
Berkeley	79,175	78,974	78,559	201	415
Calhoun	6,032	6,007	5,975	25	32
Charleston	165,292	164,872	164,006	420	866
Cherokee	22,567	22,367	22,149	200	218
Chester	12,943	12,826	12,773	117	53
Chesterfield	16,746	16,589	16,499	157	90
Clarendon	10,682	10,577	10,527	105	50
Colleton	15,215	15,072	14,960	143	112
Darlington	27,296	27,283	27,200	13	83
Dillon	11,211	11,102	11,022	109	80
Dorchester	64,726	64,561	64,223	165	338
Edgefield	10,210	10,182	10,171	28	11
Fairfield	9,356	9,318	9,267	38	51
Florence	57,065	57,035	56,863	30	172
Georgetown	26,894	26,503	26,277	391	226
Greenville	212,439	211,294	210,146	1,145	1,148
Greenwood	27,932	27,625	27,353	307	272
Hampton	6,856	6,780	6,729	76	51
Horry	114,159	110,500	109,043	3,659	1,457
Jasper	9,823	9,726	9,639	97	87
Kershaw	27,333	27,223	27,074	110	149
Lancaster	28,956	28,685	28,527	271	158
Laurens	27,743	27,594	27,444	149	150
Lee	7,183	7,127	7,101	56	26
Lexington	126,086	125,577	124,889	509	688
McCormick	2,966	2,937	2,912	29	25
Marion	9,577	9,452	9,386	125	66
Marlboro	9,744	9,646	9,610	98	36
Newberry	16,962	16,828	16,743	134	85
Oconee	29,037	28,766	28,533	271	233
Orangeburg	35,213	34,849	34,532	364	317
Pickens	53,299	53,012	52,724	287	288
Richland	168,423	167,744	166,824	679	920
Saluda	8,333	8,299	8,254	34	45
Spartanburg	125,927	125,644	124,517	283	1,127
Sumter	40,344	40,045	40,004	299	41
Union	10,004	9,919	9,824	85	95
Williamsburg	13,135	12,987	12,899	148	88
York	101,989	101,471	101,802	518	-331

South Carolina Non-Farm Employment Trends

Non-farm jobs (not seasonally adjusted) in the state increased 18,200 from February to March to a total of 1,875,200 with the Service-Producing sectors leading the increase. Leisure and Hospitality reported a large gain (+9,800) as the tourist season approaches. The largest part of the increase was felt in the Accommodation and Food Service subsector and, geographically, in the Grand Strand, state capital, and the Lowcountry areas.

Improvements in March were also reported in Professional and Business Services (+2,600) with gains mostly in Employment Services, and Services to Buildings and Dwellings. Government (+2,200) saw increases generally in Local Government while Trade, Transportation, and Utilities upticks (+1,900) were mainly in Retail Trade (specifically in General Merchandise Stores, Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers, and Food and Beverage Stores).

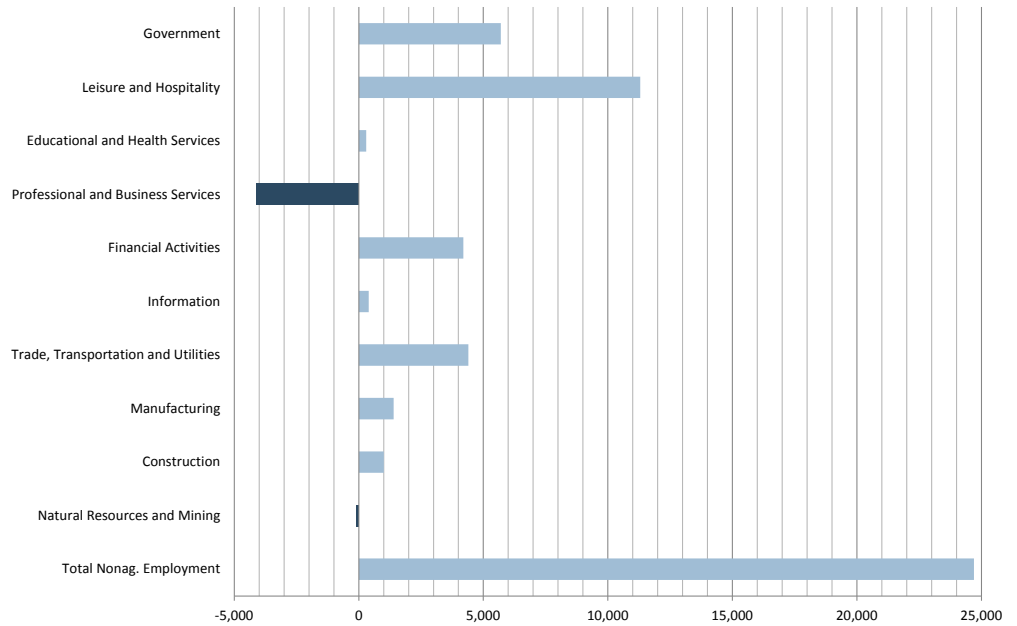
There was a slight gain in Financial Activities (+1,600), and smaller increases were seen in Other Services (+700) and Manufacturing (+600), mostly in durable goods.

Three industries reported losses: Construction (-400; primarily in Specialty Trade Contractors), Information (-400), and Education and Health Services (-400; mostly in Healthcare and Social Assistance).

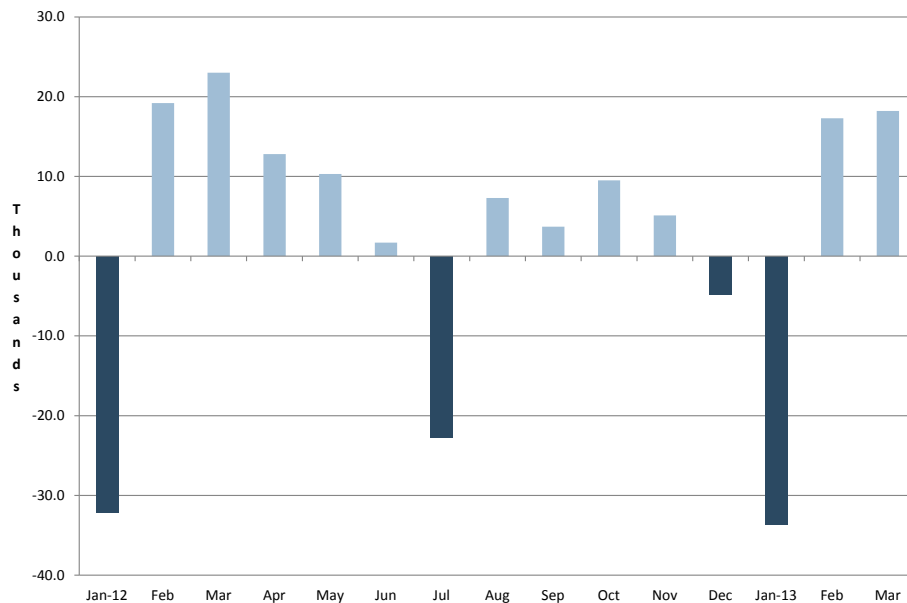
Three industries reported losses: Construction (-400; primarily in Specialty Trade Contractors), Information (-400), and Education and Health Services (-400; mostly in Healthcare and Social Assistance).

Growth in the Metropolitan Statistical Areas during the year has been strongest in Columbia (+3,400), Myrtle Beach (+2,900), Spartanburg (+2,600), Greenville (+2,700), and Charleston (+1,700). Florence (+200) and Sumter (+300) have seen modest gains while Anderson has seen a small decline (-100).

South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
March 2012 - March 2013



SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2012 - 2013



Since March 2012, overall employment growth has averaged about 2,050 jobs per month. There was a notable increase of 11,300 jobs in Leisure and Hospitality. Employment in Professional and Business Services has declined 4,100 over the year.

In March, average hourly earnings for manufacturing employees on private nonfarm payrolls were \$17.13, changing modestly (+16 cents). Over the year, average hourly earnings have risen by 38 cents, or 2.27 percent. The manufacturing workweek decreased by -0.1 hour to 42 hours during the month.

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Declined in March

The South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) fell 0.23 points in March after a revised 0.39 point February advance to stand at 99.89 for the month. A greater than 12 percent drop of the Conference Board’s US Consumer Confidence Index, coupled with an over 6 percent fall of the South Carolina Help Wanted Online Advertisement caused SCESTI’s drop for this month. Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours Worked and the Conference Board’s US Employment Trend Index were also lower (both were down about 2 percent) for the month. On the positive side, the SC Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) decreased more than 8 percent in March, and this is the third consecutive month this index component dropped.

When looking at a 12-month comparison, the Index and almost all of its components saw improvements. Compared to March 2012: SCESTI managed to gain 0.39 points; the Conference Board’s South Carolina Help Wanted Online Advertisements were almost 8 percent higher; the number of people who filed for UI Initial Claims dropped more than 6.7 percent; the Conference Board’s US Employment Trends Index was up almost 3.7 percent and the Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours increased almost 1.7 percent. The only component that suffered losses was the Conference Board’s US Consumer Confidence Index, which was more than 14 percent lower than 12 months ago.

Even with the decline this month, SCESTI is still almost 0.4 percent higher than its level 12 months ago. Plus, the fact that March is the forty-third consecutive month (since August, 2009) that the SCESTI stayed above its 12-month moving average suggests the employment situation of South Carolina will continue to improve throughout the third quarter of 2013.

