

INSIGHTS



4.4%
March
Unemployment Rate

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SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

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Employment Growth Continues, Unemployment Rate Remains Steady

Nearly everyone who entered the labor force in March found work, setting a new employment record for the state.

The number of individuals working increased by 9,539 in March to a historic high of 2,229,599 people. South Carolina's labor force increased 9,763 to 2,333,186 people, while the number of people unemployed edged up by 224 over February, increasing to 103,587. This kept the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March steady at 4.4 percent for the third consecutive month.

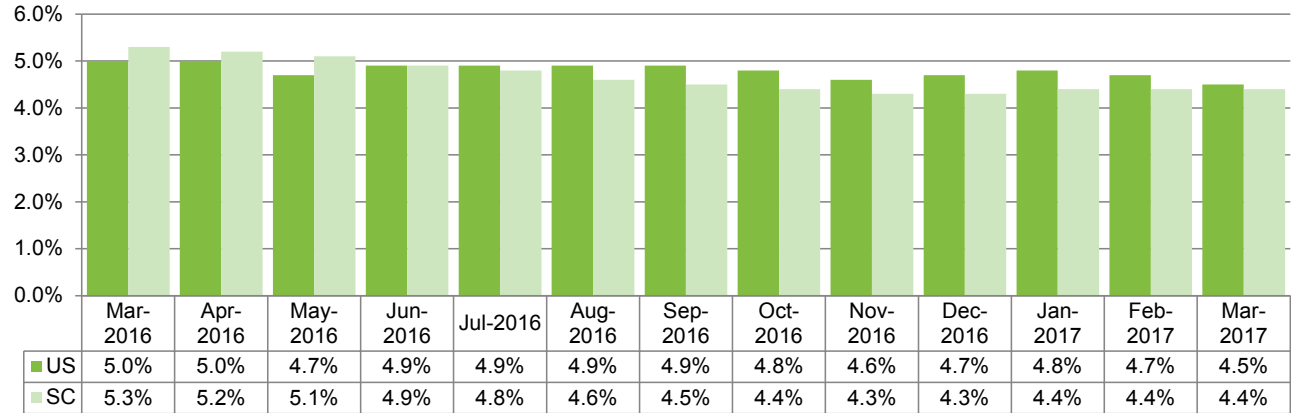
During the past year, the labor force has grown by 36,734, and employment gains totaled 55,370. The level of unemployment since March 2016 has decreased by 18,636 people.

Nationally, March's unemployment rate fell from 4.7 percent in February to 4.5 percent.



Economic Indicators		
March - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)		
	United States	SC
Labor Force	160,201,000	2,333,186
Employed	153,000,000	2,229,599
Unemployed	7,202,000	103,587
Unemp. Rate	4.5%	4.4%

South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
March 2016 - March 2017



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 2016 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

South Carolina Ranked 25th Highest of 51 States in March

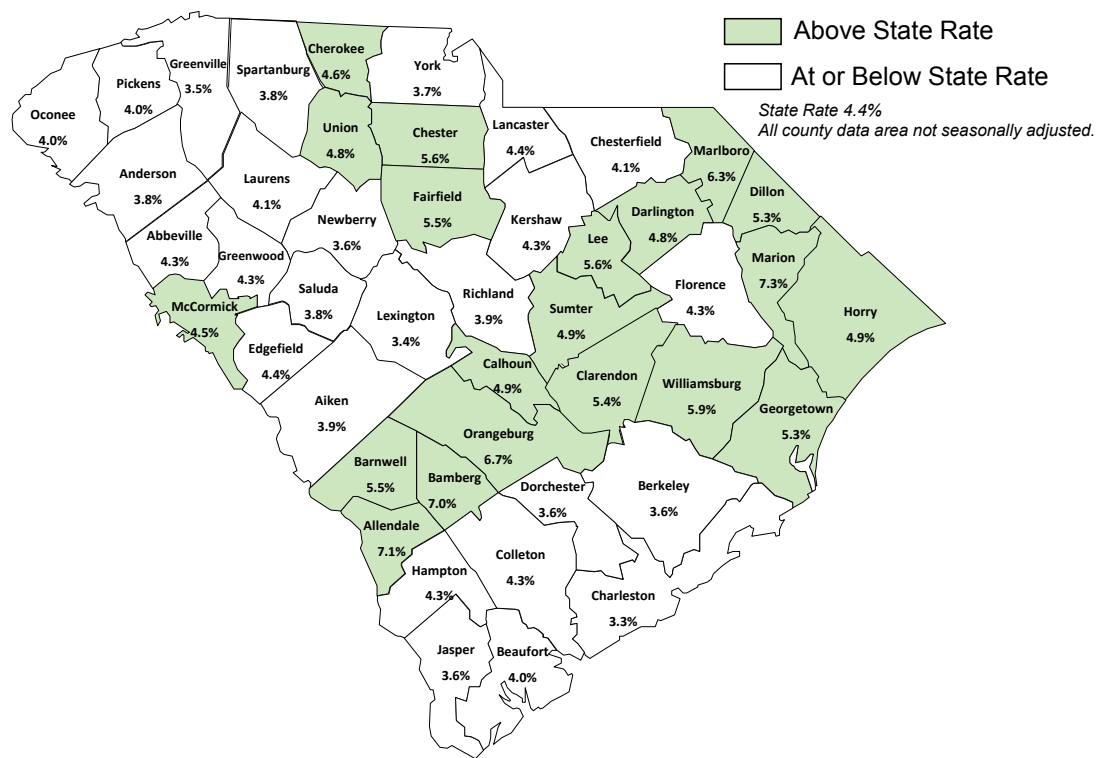
Unemployment rates were lower in March in 17 states and stable in 33 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Eighteen states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, and 32 states and the District had little or no change. In March, South Carolina ranked 25th highest out of 51 states.

Nonfarm payroll employment decreased in four states in March 2017, increased in three, and was essentially unchanged in 43 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, 27 states added nonfarm payroll jobs, two states lost jobs, and 21 states and the District were essentially unchanged. The largest yearly job gains occurred in California (+346,400), Texas (+249,000), and Florida (+246,100). The largest annual percentage gain occurred in Utah (+3.2 percent), followed by Florida, Georgia, and Nevada (+3.0 percent each). Two states had over-the-year declines in employment, Alaska (-6,900, or -2.1 percent) and Wyoming (-6,100, or -2.1 percent).

March Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates were lower across the state during March. Overall, county unemployment rates ranged from 7.3 percent in Marion County to 3.3 percent in Charleston County.

Since March of 2016 employment levels in South Carolina counties, as a whole, have increased by nearly 57,175 people. Charleston, Spartanburg, and York counties have accounted for nearly 30 percent of the growth over the year.



New Mexico	6.7
Alaska	6.4
Alabama	5.8
District of Columbia	5.8
Louisiana	5.7
Georgia	5.1
Michigan	5.1
Ohio	5.1
Tennessee	5.1
Arizona	5.0
Kentucky	5.0
Mississippi	5.0
Texas	5.0
California	4.9
Illinois	4.9
North Carolina	4.9
West Virginia	4.9
Connecticut	4.8
Florida	4.8
Nevada	4.8
Pennsylvania	4.8
Washington	4.7
Delaware	4.5
Wyoming	4.5
United States	4.5
South Carolina	4.4
Maryland	4.3
New York	4.3
Oklahoma	4.3
Rhode Island	4.3
New Jersey	4.2
Indiana	3.9
Missouri	3.9
Kansas	3.8
Minnesota	3.8
Montana	3.8
Oregon	3.8
Virginia	3.8
Arkansas	3.6
Massachusetts	3.6
Idaho	3.5
Wisconsin	3.4
Iowa	3.1
Nebraska	3.1
Utah	3.1
Maine	3.0
Vermont	3.0
New Hampshire	2.8
North Dakota	2.8
South Dakota	2.8
Hawaii	2.7
Colorado	2.6

March 2017

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	7.3%	Charleston	3.3%
Allendale	7.1%	Lexington	3.4%
Bamberg	7.0%	Greenville	3.5%
Orangeburg	6.7%	Berkeley	3.6%
Marlboro	6.3%	Dorchester	3.6%

March 2017

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earning	\$1,046.80	\$814.64
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	42.1
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$26.37	\$19.35

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for March - Seasonally Adjusted

March seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,400 over the month to a record high level of 2,077,700.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities led the industry growth (+2,200). Additional growth was seen in Education and Health Services (+1,400); Manufacturing (+1,200); Government (+900); and Leisure and Hospitality (+800).

March's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment decreases occurred in Professional and Business Services (-1,700); Other Services (-1,500); Financial Activities (-1,100); Construction (-700); and Information (-100).

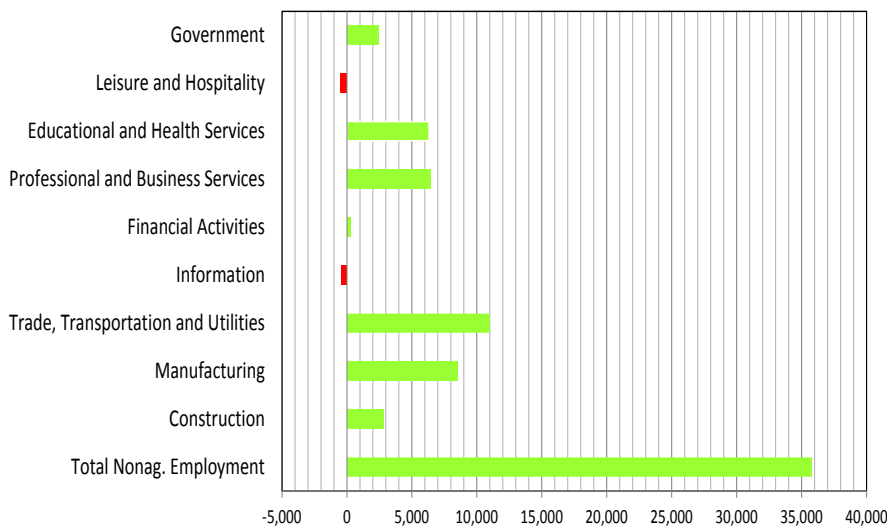
Over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was 35,800. Significant growth was seen in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,000); Manufacturing (+8,500); Professional and Business Services (+6,400); and Education and Health Services (+6,300). Construction (+2,800); Government (+2,400); and Financial Activities (+300) also reported employment gains.

Decreases were reported in Other Services (-1,200); Leisure and Hospitality (-500); and Information (-400).

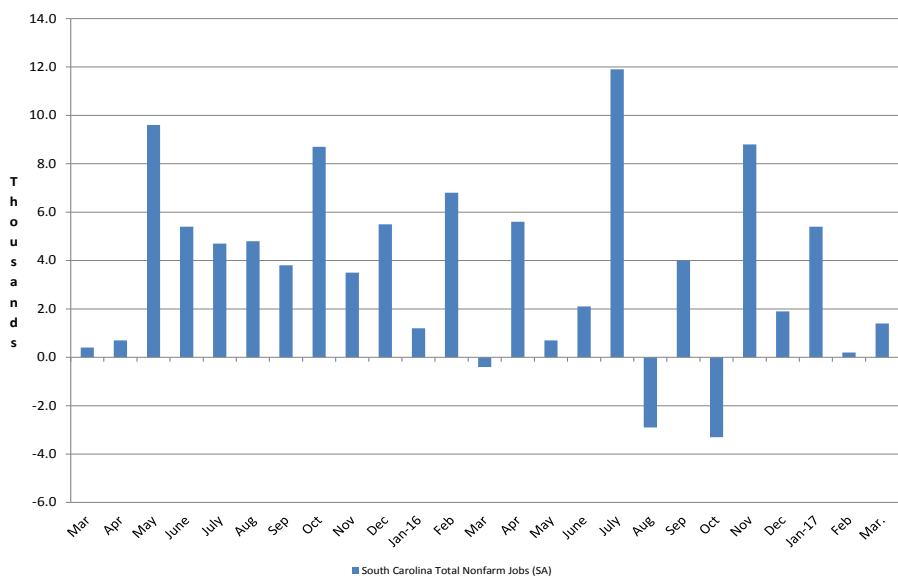
Metropolitan Statistical Areas, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment saw over-the-month increases. A notable increase was seen in Charleston (+1,600), followed by Spartanburg (+500), and Myrtle Beach (+400), while Florence held steady. Decreases occurred in Columbia (-700), Greenville (-700), and Sumter (-400).

Over-the-year, growth occurred in nearly every Metropolitan Statistical Areas' seasonally adjusted payroll. The most prominent increase was reported in Charleston (+11,300).

South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
March 2016 - March 2017 (SA)



SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2015 - 2017



Economic Indicators (Mar. 2017) Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

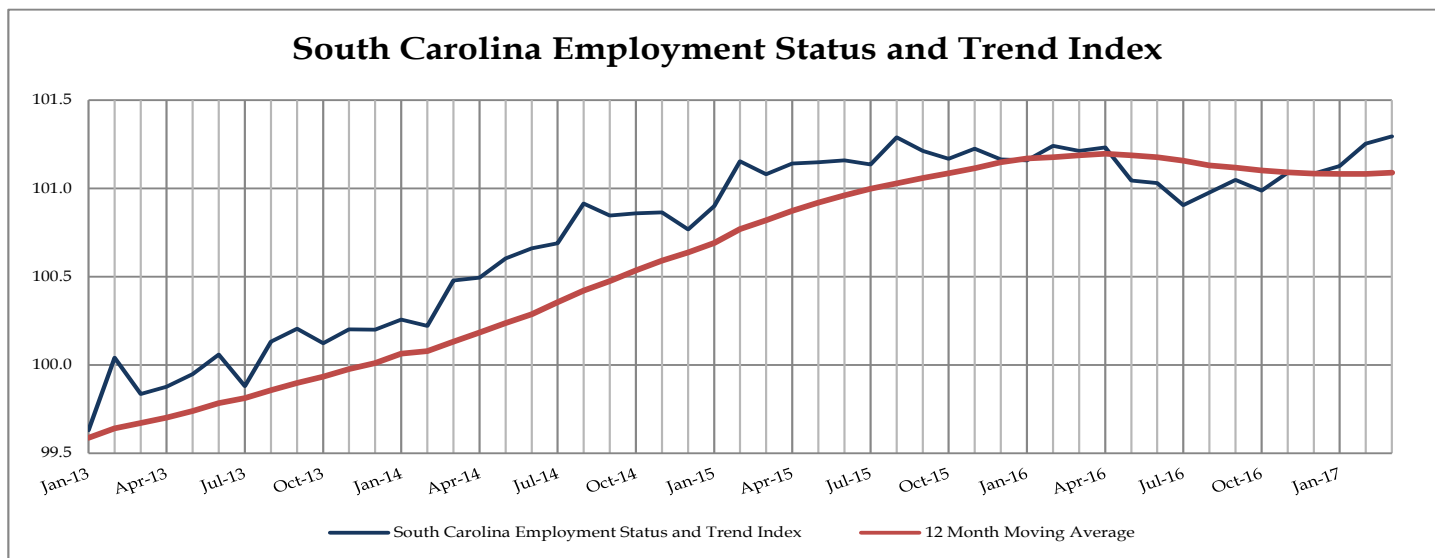
MSA	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	0.45%	3.29%
Florence MSA	0.00%	2.42%
Columbia MSA	-0.18%	0.97%
Sumter MSA	-1.03%	-0.51%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

Employment Changes by County
January 2017 through March 2017

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Jan 2017	Feb '17 - Mar '17	Jan '17 - Feb '17
Abbeville	10,016	9,923	9,906	93	17
Aiken	72,249	71,926	71,869	323	57
Allendale	2,478	2,460	2,492	18	-32
Anderson	86,582	86,034	85,072	548	962
Bamberg	4,889	4,843	4,890	46	-47
Barnwell	7,941	7,871	7,905	70	-34
Beaufort	69,535	68,540	68,072	995	468
Berkeley	94,366	93,297	92,605	1,069	692
Calhoun	6,598	6,578	6,522	20	56
Charleston	200,774	198,915	197,031	1,859	1,884
Cherokee	22,836	22,574	22,568	262	6
Chester	13,134	12,993	12,972	141	21
Chesterfield	21,333	21,154	21,166	179	-12
Clarendon	12,280	12,215	12,253	65	-38
Colleton	16,538	16,418	16,374	120	44
Darlington	29,018	28,675	28,390	343	285
Dillon	12,252	12,145	12,223	107	-78
Dorchester	73,345	72,542	71,993	803	549
Edgefield	10,289	10,274	10,276	15	-2
Fairfield	9,534	9,490	9,410	44	80
Florence	64,000	63,261	62,397	739	864
Georgetown	24,357	24,029	24,028	328	1
Greenville	239,095	237,527	234,838	1,568	2,689
Greenwood	30,419	30,103	30,141	316	-38
Hampton	7,855	7,778	7,835	77	-57
Horry	131,943	127,364	125,553	4,579	1,811
Jasper	11,426	11,340	11,192	86	148
Kershaw	28,168	28,034	27,791	134	243
Lancaster	36,643	36,275	36,156	368	119
Laurens	29,205	29,054	28,726	151	328
Lee	6,179	6,131	6,138	48	-7
Lexington	143,461	142,735	141,342	726	1,393
McCormick	3,296	3,272	3,266	24	6
Marion	11,883	11,708	11,690	175	18
Marlboro	8,715	8,619	8,664	96	-45
Newberry	18,473	18,339	18,435	134	-96
Oconee	33,519	33,231	33,227	288	4
Orangeburg	33,204	32,920	32,991	284	-71
Pickens	54,657	54,336	53,671	321	665
Richland	195,106	193,804	191,920	1,302	1,884
Saluda	8,477	8,487	8,480	-10	7
Spartanburg	140,151	138,811	137,539	1,340	1,272
Sumter	42,292	42,223	41,944	69	279
Union	11,299	11,198	11,089	101	109
Williamsburg	11,948	11,829	11,865	119	-36
York	127,765	126,451	125,904	1,314	547

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Continues to Climb Higher



The S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) climbed again in March for the third consecutive month, gaining from 101.25 in February 2017 to 101.30 in March. The increases this year have led the Index to continue the advance beyond its 12-month moving average, which rose as well to 101.09 in March.

Three of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a positive direction in March, while two declined. The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index leapt ahead by 10.1 points from February's value of 114.8 to 124.9 in March. The Conference Board's Employment Trends Index grew in March to 131.43 points from a February value of 131.09. The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online data, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, increased by 348 in March to 61,400 from 61,052 in February. The Bureau of Labor Statistic's Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed production hours decreasing to a preliminary 41.3 hours per week in March over its February level of 41.7. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance grew from a February average of 2,036 per week to a March average of 2,050 per week.

SCESTI has increased from its year-ago value of 101.21 in March 2016. The Index remained above its 12-month moving average, signifying a positive employment trend over the next several months.

Certifications and Licenses in the United States in 2015

“Certifications and licenses are credentials that demonstrate a level of skill or knowledge needed to perform a specific type of job. Certifications are issued by a non-governmental body, but licenses are awarded by a government agency and convey a legal authority to work in an occupation. People may have more than one certification or license; people with a license may also have a certification.”

*US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics,
<https://www.bls.gov/cps/certifications-and-licenses.htm>*

17.8%
of the U.S.
population
(16 years old and
over) have a current
certification or
license.

**Don't have a high school
diploma or GED?**
You are almost twice as likely to be
employed if you have a certification
or license.

2.7% versus 6.1%
Unemployment rate for people with a certification/license versus
those without one

Median
Weekly
Earnings:
43%
higher
for those
with a
certification
or license

Hispanic workers
were the least likely
(15.7 percent) and
White workers
the most likely (26.2
percent) to hold a
certification or license.

Women
were more likely
to have a
certification or
license than men
(28.1 percent
versus 23.2
percent).