

# INSIGHTS



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S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

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

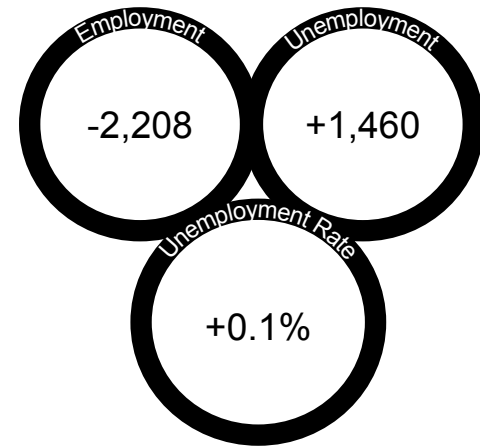
## Unemployment rate inches up in August

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly in August to 4 percent from 3.9 percent in July.

The over-the-month change in the number of individuals working declined by 2,208 to 2,225,610 people. The count of unemployed people grew by 1,460 to 93,067. The state's labor force decreased 748 to 2,318,677 people.

Since August 2016, the labor force has grown by 21,448 people, and employment gains totaled 34,940. The level of unemployed decreased 13,492.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased from 4.3 percent in July to 4.4 percent in August.

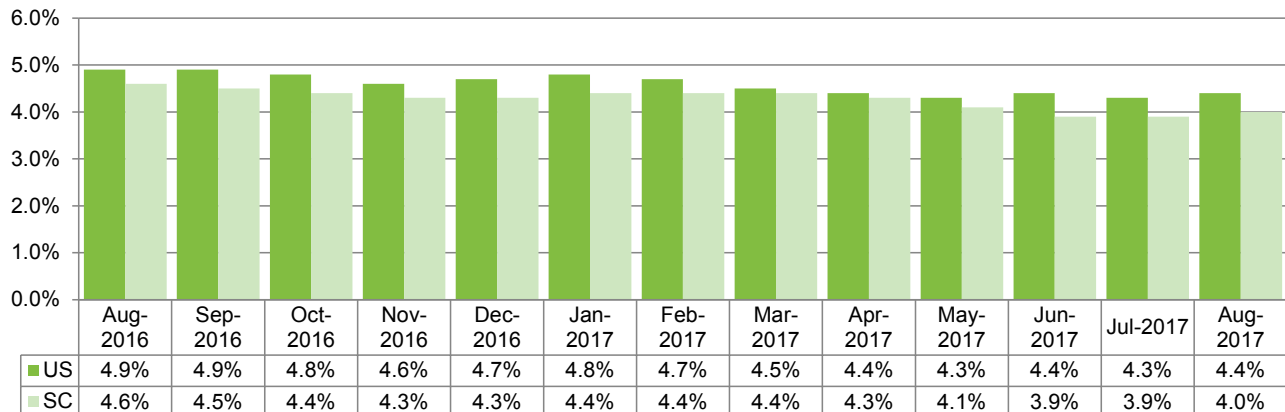


## Economic Indicators

August - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	160,571,000	2,318,677
Employed	153,439,000	2,225,610
Unemployed	7,132,000	93,067
Unemp. Rate	4.4%	4.0%

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



## South Carolina ranked 22nd lowest of 50 states and D.C. in August

Unemployment rates were higher in August in eight states, lower in one state, and stable in 41 states and the District of Columbia. Twenty-one states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, one state had an increase, and 28 states and the District had little or no change. In August, South Carolina ranked 22nd lowest out of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

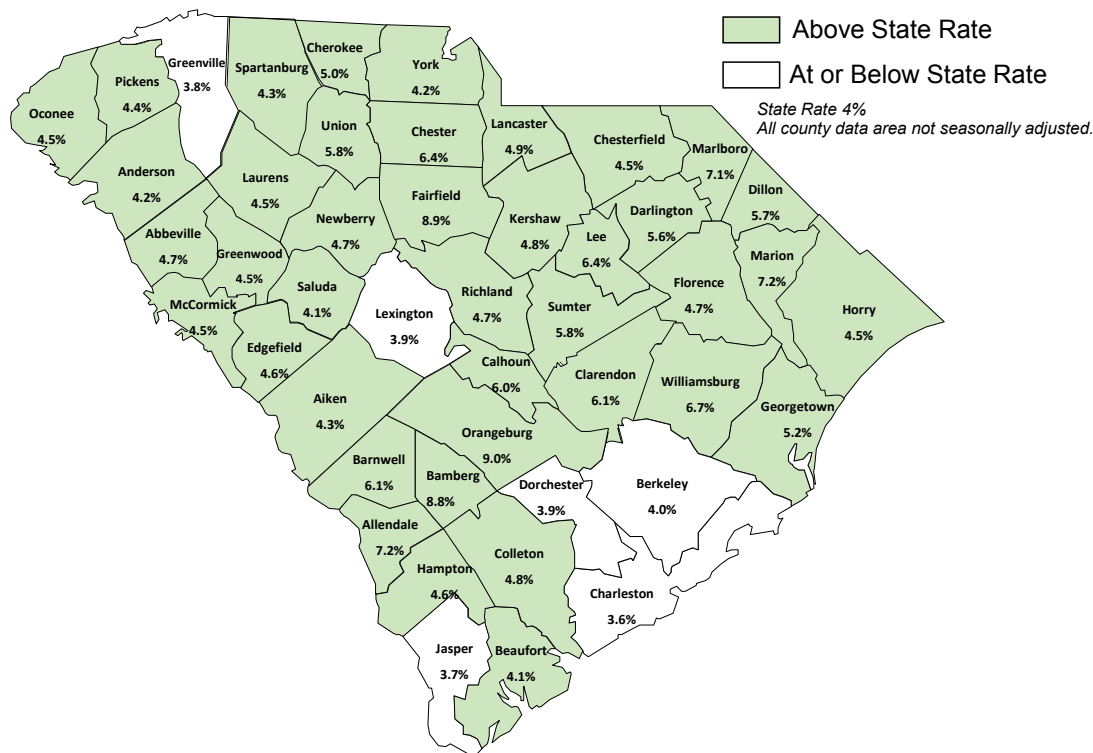
Nonfarm payroll employment increased in six states in August 2017, decreased in three states, and was essentially unchanged in 41 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, 29 states and the District added nonfarm payroll jobs, and 21 states were essentially unchanged. The largest percentage gain occurred in Nevada (+3.0 percent), followed by Georgia (+2.7 percent) and Florida and Utah (+2.6 percent each) from a year ago.

## August unemployment rates by county

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates changed modestly across the state during August. Over the month, 33 counties marked increases, 11 marked decreases, and four counties saw no change in their unemployment rates.

Declines in employment levels were noted in Horry, Charleston, and Beaufort counties as the summer tourist season wound down. Notable employment declines were also seen in Richland and Lexington counties.

Overall, county unemployment rates ranged from 9.0 percent in Orangeburg County to 3.6 percent in Charleston County during the month.



North Dakota	2.3
Colorado	2.4
Hawaii	2.6
New Hampshire	2.7
Nebraska	2.8
Idaho	2.9
Vermont	3.0
Iowa	3.3
South Dakota	3.3
Tennessee	3.3
Wisconsin	3.4
Arkansas	3.5
Indiana	3.5
Utah	3.5
Maine	3.8
Minnesota	3.8
Virginia	3.8
Kansas	3.9
Maryland	3.9
Michigan	3.9
Montana	3.9
Florida	4.0
Missouri	4.0
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Wyoming	4.0
North Carolina	4.1
Oregon	4.1
Alabama	4.2
Massachusetts	4.2
Texas	4.2
Rhode Island	4.3
<b>United States</b>	<b>4.4</b>
New Jersey	4.5
Oklahoma	4.5
Washington	4.6
Georgia	4.7
Connecticut	4.8
New York	4.8
Delaware	4.9
Nevada	4.9
Pennsylvania	4.9
Arizona	5.0
Illinois	5.0
West Virginia	5.0
California	5.1
Louisiana	5.2
Mississippi	5.3
Kentucky	5.4
Ohio	5.4
New Mexico	6.3
District of Columbia	6.4
Alaska	7.2

August 2017

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Orangeburg	9.0%	Charleston	3.6%
Fairfield	8.9%	Jasper	3.7%
Bamberg	8.8%	Greenville	3.8%
Allendale	7.2%	Dorchester	3.9%
Marion	7.2%	Lexington	3.9%

August 2017

Economic Indicators		
Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	S.C. (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,079.77	\$798.39
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.6	42.4
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$26.53	\$18.83

## South Carolina seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment trend for August

August 2017 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 6,200 over the month to a record high level of 2,094,900.

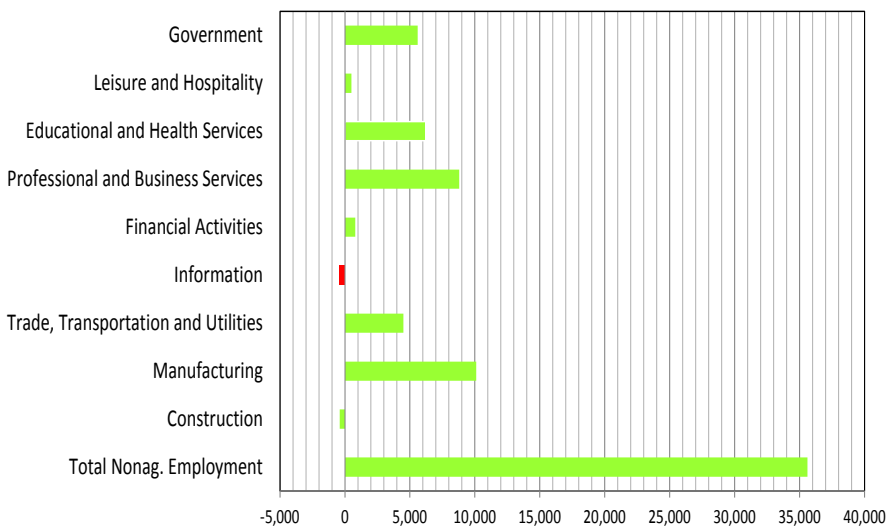
The increases in employment were primarily due to growth in Professional and Business Services (+5,500); Government (+1,700); Other Services (+1,100); and Education and Health Services (+1,000). Additional gains were reported in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+700); Manufacturing (+300); and Information (+300).

Reporting declines during the same period were the Construction (-2,700); Leisure and Hospitality (-1,400); and Financial Activities (-400) sectors.

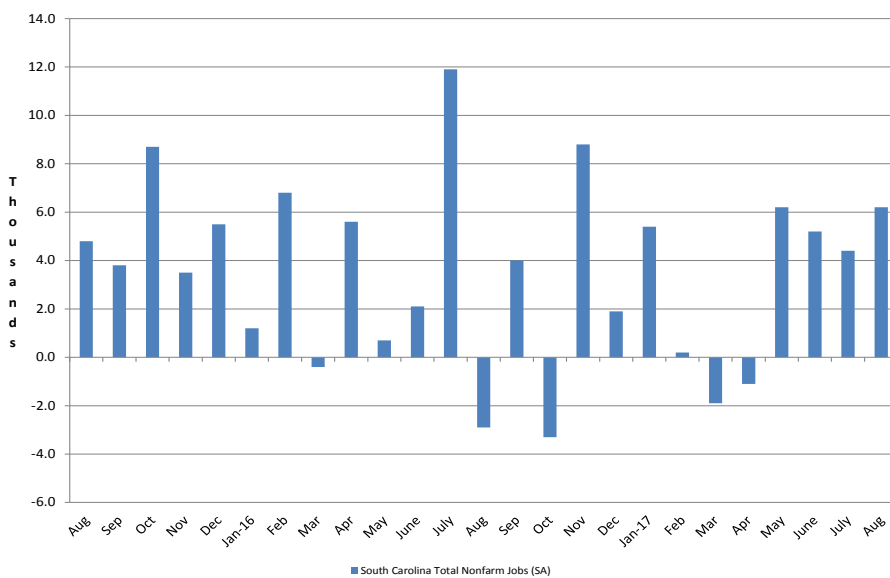
Over-the-year growth in nonfarm employment was 35,600. Growth with noticeable gains were in Manufacturing (+10,100); Professional and Business Services (+8,800); Education and Health Services (+6,200); Government (+5,600); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,500). Additional job gains were in Financial Activities (+800) and Leisure and Hospitality (+500). Declines were reported in the Construction (-400); Information (-400); and Other Services (-300) sectors.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas', seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll saw over-the-month growth. The most prominent job gain was reported in Greenville (+4,100), followed by Charleston (+2,000). Additional growth was seen in Spartanburg (+300) and Florence (+100). Columbia (-5,500); Myrtle Beach (-400); and Sumter (-200) saw jobs losses.

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



**SC Total Nonfarm Jobs  
2015 - 2017**



**Economic Indicators (August 2017)**

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

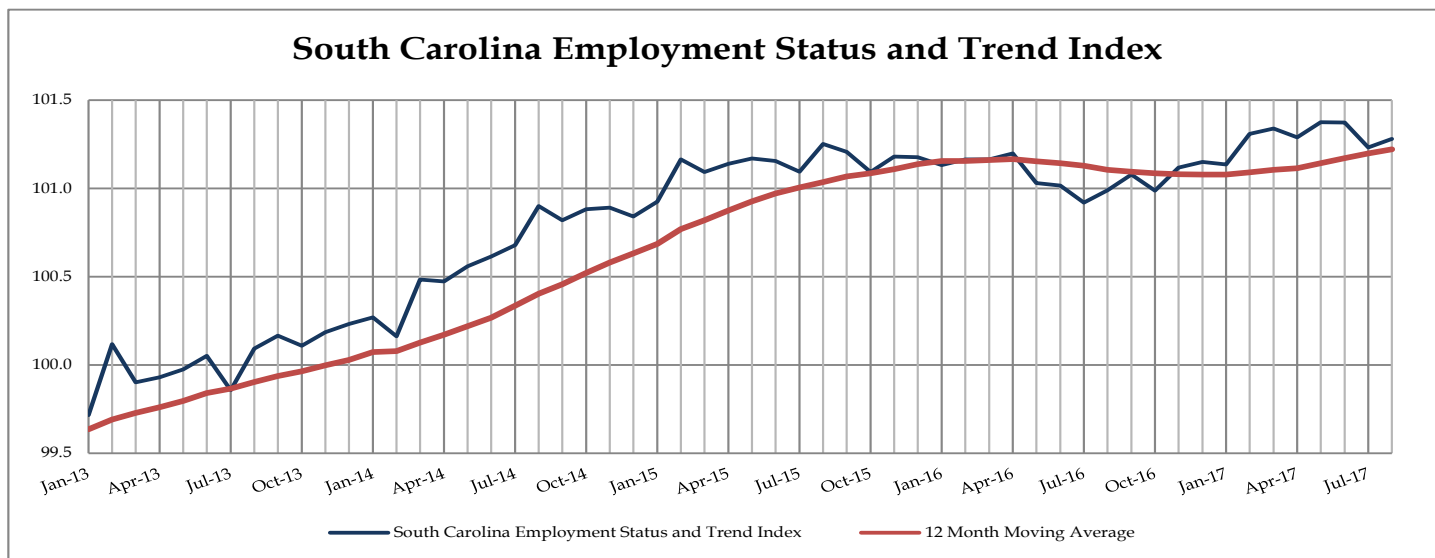
MSA	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Greenville MSA	0.98%	1.63%
Charleston MSA	0.56%	1.87%
Florence MSA	0.11%	1.93%
Sumter MSA	-0.51%	0.51%

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

### Employment Changes by County June 2017 through August 2017

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Aug 2017	Jul 2017	Jun 2017	Jul '17 - Aug '17	Jun '17 - Jul '17
Abbeville	10,011	9,977	9,964	34	13
Aiken	73,158	73,523	72,684	-365	839
Allendale	2,544	2,562	2,538	-18	24
Anderson	86,621	86,430	86,775	191	-345
Bamberg	4,966	4,982	4,946	-16	36
Barnwell	8,005	8,020	7,963	-15	57
Beaufort	72,371	73,593	72,906	-1,222	687
Berkeley	93,723	94,564	94,277	-841	287
Calhoun	6,575	6,720	6,674	-145	46
Charleston	200,022	201,750	201,421	-1,728	329
Cherokee	22,734	22,683	22,660	51	23
Chester	13,134	13,120	13,206	14	-86
Chesterfield	21,489	21,514	21,490	-25	24
Clarendon	12,411	12,492	12,433	-81	59
Colleton	16,634	16,670	16,636	-36	34
Darlington	28,863	29,087	29,151	-224	-64
Dillon	12,419	12,482	12,410	-63	72
Dorchester	72,909	73,569	73,358	-660	211
Edgefield	10,522	10,602	10,482	-80	120
Fairfield	9,456	9,660	9,590	-204	70
Florence	63,390	63,732	64,010	-342	-278
Georgetown	24,883	25,055	24,959	-172	96
Greenville	239,003	238,414	239,384	589	-970
Greenwood	30,444	30,381	30,291	63	90
Hampton	8,113	8,203	8,124	-90	79
Horry	140,010	143,799	143,454	-3,789	345
Jasper	11,970	12,155	12,097	-185	58
Kershaw	27,920	28,519	28,317	-599	202
Lancaster	36,636	36,572	36,847	64	-275
Laurens	29,310	29,267	29,387	43	-120
Lee	6,201	6,271	6,236	-70	35
Lexington	141,849	144,769	143,819	-2,920	950
McCormick	3,312	3,307	3,297	5	10
Marion	12,066	12,157	12,119	-91	38
Marlboro	8,746	8,740	8,696	6	44
Newberry	18,690	18,870	18,723	-180	147
Oconee	33,667	33,635	33,560	32	75
Orangeburg	33,401	33,485	33,332	-84	153
Pickens	54,676	54,532	54,784	144	-252
Richland	191,974	195,817	194,469	-3,843	1,348
Saluda	8,646	8,894	8,803	-248	91
Spartanburg	138,942	138,969	139,947	-27	-978
Sumter	41,656	42,384	42,286	-728	98
Union	11,213	11,216	11,297	-3	-81
Williamsburg	12,021	12,040	11,993	-19	47
York	127,469	127,134	128,167	335	-1,033

## South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Rises



The S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), an aggregate of five labor-market indicators, rose in August 2017, climbing to 101.28 from a July revised value of 101.23. The Index was above its 12-month moving average, which increased two-hundredths of a point to 101.22 in August.

Three of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a positive direction in August, and two moved in a negative direction. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance declined from a July average of 3,823 per week to an August average of 2,362 per week. The Conference Board’s Consumer Confidence Index climbed by 2.9 points from July’s revised value of 120.0 to 122.9 in August. The Conference Board’s Employment Trends Index rose in August to 134.62 points from a July revised value of 133.60. The Conference Board’s Help Wanted Online data, which tracks the number of available job advertisements posted online, fell by 2,879 in August to 57,005 from 59,884 in July. The Bureau of Labor Statistic’s Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed a slight decline in production hours in August at 42.4 average hours per week from July’s revised value of 42.6 average hours per week.

SCESTI has increased from its year-ago value of 100.99 in August 2016. With the Index above its 12-month moving average, this signifies a more positive direction for employment change over the next several months.

## Autonomous Vehicles

### What Does That Mean for Current Jobs and New Jobs in the Future?

An autonomous vehicle is a vehicle that is capable of sensing its environment and navigating without human input. Autonomous vehicles detect surroundings using radar, LIDAR, GPS, Odometry, and computer vision. Advanced control systems interpret sensory information to identify appropriate navigation paths, as well as obstacles and relevant signage.

As technology changes ever faster, these types of driverless vehicles will soon be on the roads of our nation transporting people, finished products, commodities, and most things vehicles with drivers transport today.

As of July 2017, nine states have passed some type of legislation related to self-driving vehicles. Now 21 states have passed legislation related to autonomous vehicles. National legislation is also pending to provide the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with authority over highly automated vehicles, to provide safety measures for such vehicles, and for other purposes.

The changes could mean easier commutes, fewer traffic deaths, and the displacement of many workers associated with the transportation industry. As of May of 2016 there were 1.7 million Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers. There are about another 1.7 million people that drive cabs/taxis, busses, and other commercial vehicles. In South Carolina, there are about 26,000 heavy and tractor-trailer drivers. Many of these jobs have the potential to become obsolete in the near future.

Auto manufacturers are developing cars capable of limited autonomy in the early 2020's. What will this mean for vehicle ownership, the insurance industry, truck stops, and refueling stations for vehicles?

What occupations will be impacted: truck drivers, auto body repair technicians, auto insurance adjusters, towing service operators, etc.?

While this technology is still dynamic, economics look to drive this change in the transportation industry and occupations related to transportation. Could this move towards autonomous vehicles cause many people to become unemployed? Most likely people working in these occupations will move toward other occupations and industries, some of which do not even exist today. Change is coming.