

INSIGHTS

3.6%
July
Unemployment Rate

Volume 8: Issue 6 July 2018

S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

At A Glance

Employment levels continue record climb, unemployment rate declines to 3.6 percent in July.....1
 S.C. unemployment rate falls again in July 2018, S.C. rate ranked 19th lowest.....2
 July unemployment rates by county2
 South Carolina nonfarm employment trends for July - seasonally adjusted3
 Employment changes by county.....4
 S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index leaps above its 12-month moving average in July.....5
 On the road again.....6

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

Employment levels continue record climb,
unemployment rate declines to 3.6 percent

The number of individuals working across the state increased by 1,651 people to 2,227,624, setting a new record level. Unemployment decreased significantly for the fourth consecutive month by 4,766 to 82,330.

While the state's labor force declined by 3,115 to 2,309,954 people, the changes in the labor force drove the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate down to 3.6 percent from June's estimate of 3.8 percent.

Since July of 2017, employment gains totaled 11,281, and the labor force has declined by 3,268 people. The level of unemployed fell by 14,549 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate ticked down to 3.9 percent from June's rate of 4.0 percent.

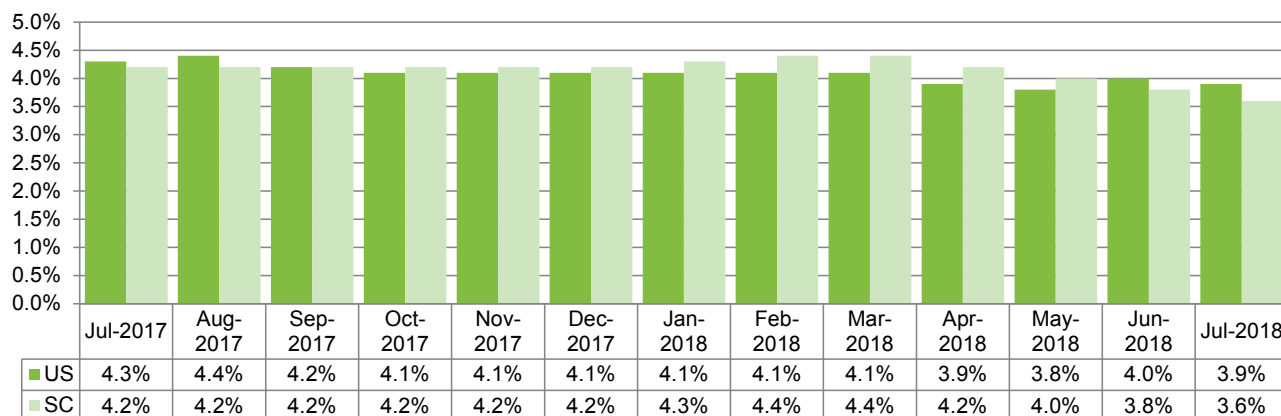


Economic Indicators

July 2018 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	162,245,000	2,309,954
Employed	155,965,000	2,227,624
Unemployed	6,280,000	82,330
Unemp. Rate	3.9%	3.6%

South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
July 2017 - July 2018



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 2017 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).



S.C. unemployment rate falls again in July 2018, S.C. rate ranked 19th lowest

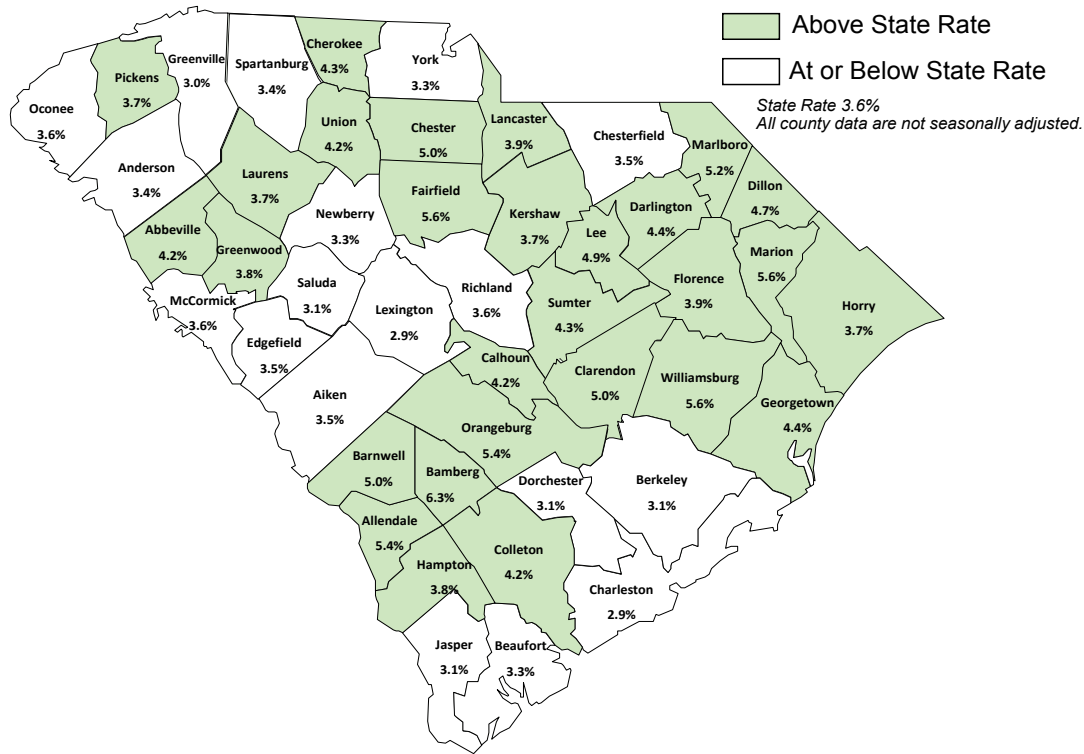
Unemployment rates were lower in July in 11 states, higher in two states and stable in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Ten states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, and 40 states and the District had little or no change. The national unemployment rate edged down by 0.1 percentage point from June to 3.9 percent and was 0.4 point lower than in July 2017. South Carolina's unemployment rate fell to 3.6 percent, ranking 19th lowest of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in six states in July 2018, decreased in one state and was essentially unchanged in 43 states and the District of Columbia. The largest increases occurred in California (+46,700), Florida (+27,400), and New Jersey (+13,000). In percentage terms, the largest increase occurred in Nevada (+0.7 percent), followed by Minnesota and Washington (+0.4 percent each). Thirty-four states had over-the-year increases in nonfarm payroll employment in July.

July unemployment rates by county

Not seasonally adjusted, county unemployment rate estimates were mixed across the state in July as the not seasonally adjusted, statewide unemployment rate decreased slightly over the month. Overall, county unemployment rates ranged from 6.3 percent in Bamberg County to 2.9 percent in Charleston and Lexington counties.

Over the year, Horry (+2,839), York (+1,951), Spartanburg (+1,611), and Greenville (+1,340) counties have seen steady employment growth. Lexington (-132), Saluda (-95), Kershaw (-49), Calhoun (-22), and Fairfield (-17) counties have marked declines in employment.



Hawaii	2.1
Iowa	2.6
North Dakota	2.6
New Hampshire	2.7
Colorado	2.8
Vermont	2.8
Idaho	2.9
Nebraska	2.9
Wisconsin	2.9
Maine	3.0
Minnesota	3.0
South Dakota	3.1
Utah	3.1
Virginia	3.1
Indiana	3.4
Kansas	3.4
Missouri	3.4
Tennessee	3.5
Massachusetts	3.6
South Carolina	3.6
Arkansas	3.7
Florida	3.7
Montana	3.7
Oklahoma	3.8
Wyoming	3.8
Delaware	3.9
Georgia	3.9
Oregon	3.9
<u>United States</u>	<u>3.9</u>
Texas	4.0
Alabama	4.1
North Carolina	4.1
Rhode Island	4.1
California	4.2
Illinois	4.2
New Jersey	4.2
Pennsylvania	4.2
Kentucky	4.3
Maryland	4.3
Michigan	4.3
New York	4.3
Connecticut	4.4
Arizona	4.6
Nevada	4.6
Ohio	4.6
Washington	4.6
New Mexico	4.7
Mississippi	4.8
Louisiana	4.9
West Virginia	5.4
District of Columbia	5.6
Alaska	6.9

July 2018

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Bamberg	6.3%	Charleston	2.9%
Fairfield	5.6%	Lexington	2.9%
Marion	5.6%	Greenville	3.0%
Williamsburg	5.6%	Berkeley	3.1%
Allendale	5.4%	Dorchester	3.1%

July 2018

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	S.C. (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,104.71	\$840.66
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.9	43.4
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$27.01	\$19.37

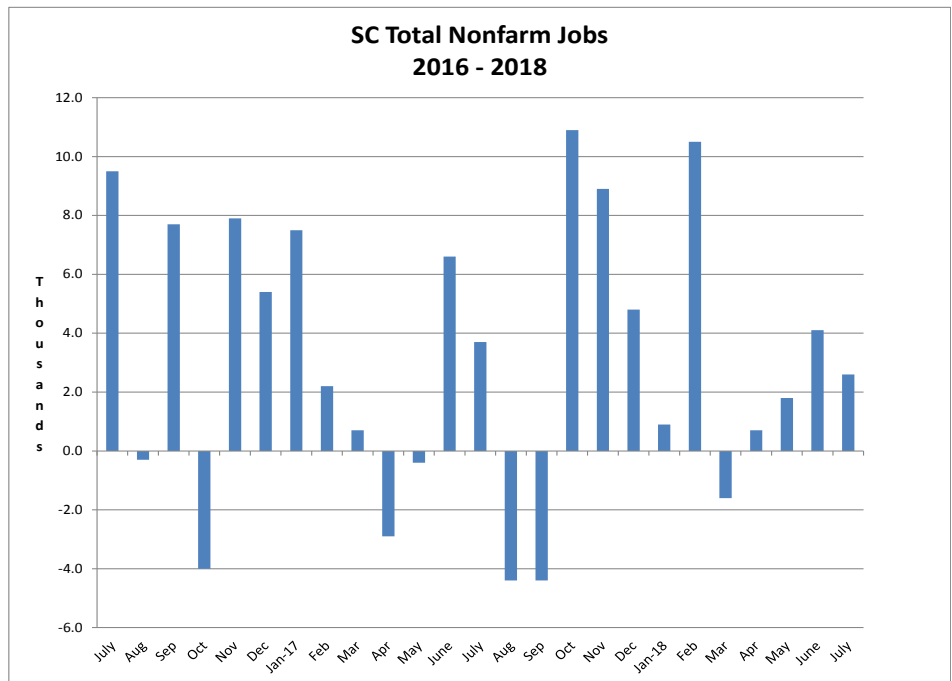
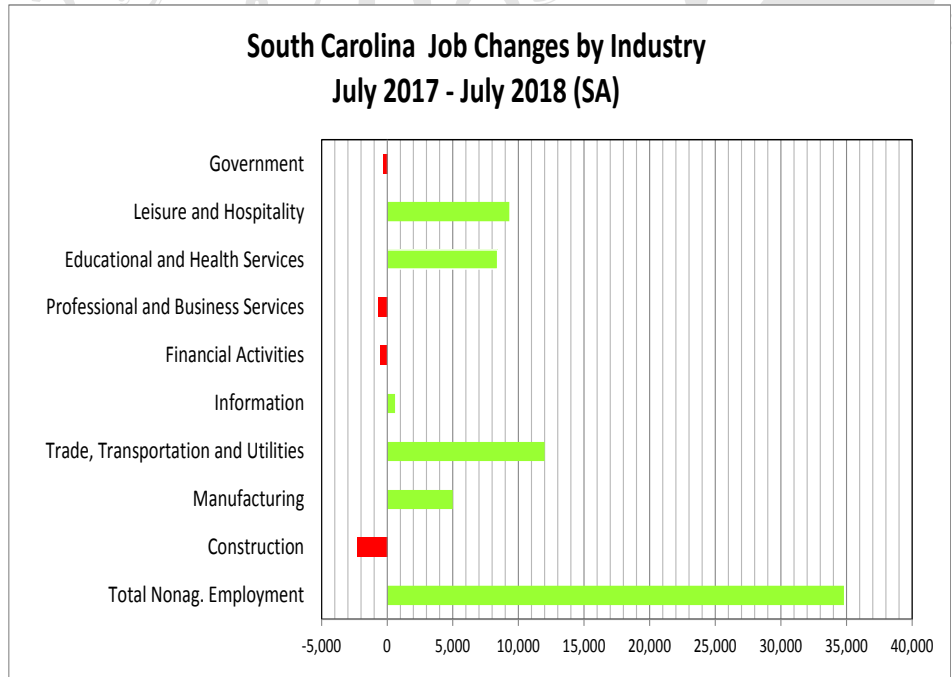
South Carolina nonfarm employment trends for July - seasonally adjusted

In July 2018 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,600 over the month to a level of 2,129,000. The consistency in employment was primarily due to growth in Construction (+1,500); Manufacturing (+1,100); Education and Health Services (+400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+200); and Information (+200). The industries reporting declines during the same period were Leisure and Hospitality (-1,000); Other Services (-500); and Financial Activities (-200). The sectors Government (0); and Professional and Business Services (0) remained the same.

From July 2017 to July 2018, South Carolina's economy has added 34,800 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs. Industries with noticeable gains were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+12,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+9,300); Education and Health Services (+8,400); Manufacturing (+5,000); Other Services (+3,100); and Information (+600). Declines were reported in Construction (-2,300); Professional and Business Services (-700); Financial Activities (-500); and Government (-300).

For the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payrolls' most significant job growth was in Columbia (+2,600) and Spartanburg (+900). Other over-the-month reported increases were in Florence (+300); Hilton Head Bluffton Beaufort (+100); and Sumter (+100). The employment in Myrtle Beach (-1,000) and Greenville (-900) decreased. The area that remained the same was Charleston (0).

Over the year, the Metropolitan Statistical Areas saw a surge in seasonally adjusted payroll. Notable employment gains were seen in Greenville (+7,400); Charleston (+5,300); and Myrtle Beach (+4,800).



Economic Indicators (July 2018)		
Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)		
	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Columbia MSA	0.65%	0.52%
Florence MSA	0.33%	1.81%
Sumter MSA	0.25%	1.27%
Charleston MSA	0.00%	1.49%

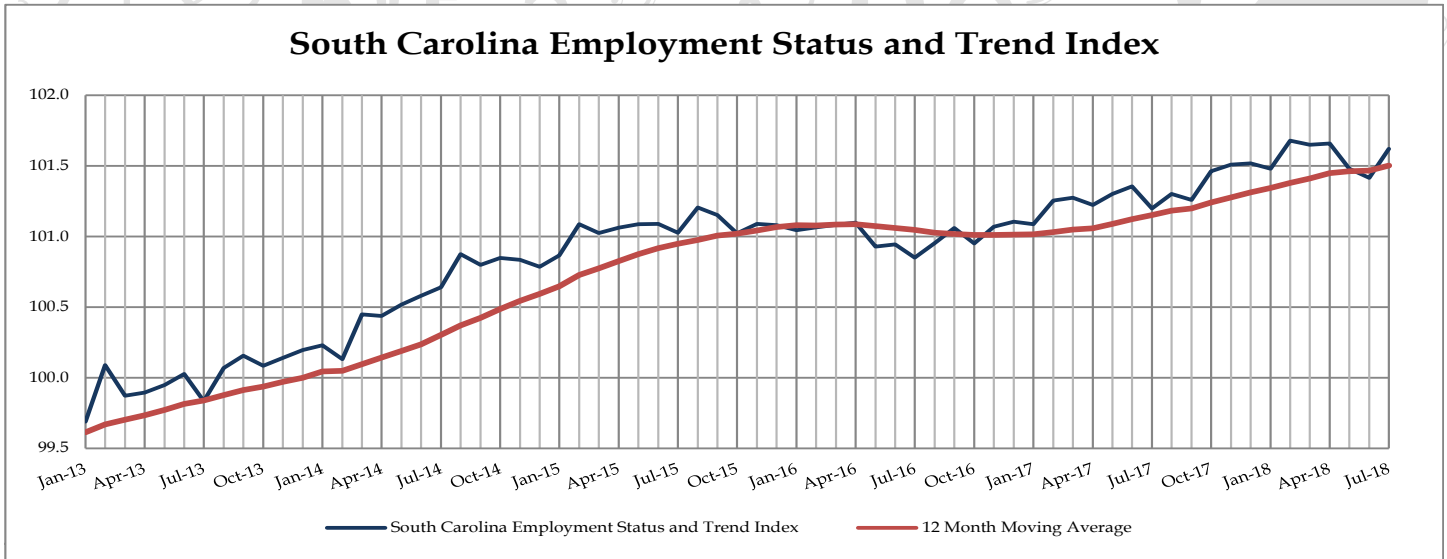
To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

Employment changes by county

May 2018 through July 2018

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Jul 2018	Jun 2018	May 2018	Jun '18 - Jul '18	May '18 - Jun '18
Abbeville	9,609	9,606	9,673	3	-67
Aiken	72,637	72,579	72,388	58	191
Allendale	2,605	2,595	2,604	10	-9
Anderson	86,628	87,178	86,852	-550	326
Bamberg	4,849	4,833	4,858	16	-25
Barnwell	7,678	7,661	7,690	17	-29
Beaufort	75,000	74,402	73,247	598	1,155
Berkeley	96,704	96,315	95,056	389	1,259
Calhoun	6,577	6,509	6,498	68	11
Charleston	201,763	201,156	198,958	607	2,198
Cherokee	23,153	23,104	23,207	49	-103
Chester	12,964	13,039	12,975	-75	64
Chesterfield	20,853	20,846	20,944	7	-98
Clarendon	11,844	11,807	11,865	37	-58
Colleton	16,297	16,275	16,329	22	-54
Darlington	28,630	28,529	28,524	101	5
Dillon	12,065	12,025	12,071	40	-46
Dorchester	72,930	72,646	71,718	284	928
Edgefield	10,274	10,270	10,256	4	14
Fairfield	9,419	9,317	9,293	102	24
Florence	63,017	62,849	62,944	168	-95
Georgetown	24,865	24,800	24,715	65	85
Greenville	240,085	241,607	240,686	-1,522	921
Greenwood	29,453	29,416	29,576	37	-160
Hampton	8,129	8,085	8,053	44	32
Horry	147,589	147,039	141,634	550	5,405
Jasper	12,357	12,298	12,187	59	111
Kershaw	28,141	27,840	27,771	301	69
Lancaster	37,813	38,051	37,904	-238	147
Laurens	29,078	29,268	29,179	-190	89
Lee	6,108	6,073	6,077	35	-4
Lexington	144,048	142,519	142,207	1,529	312
McCormick	3,242	3,239	3,262	3	-23
Marion	11,917	11,879	11,828	38	51
Marlboro	8,761	8,733	8,781	28	-48
Newberry	17,936	17,837	17,881	99	-44
Oconee	33,135	33,126	33,276	9	-150
Orangeburg	32,839	32,729	32,919	110	-190
Pickens	54,648	55,012	54,843	-364	169
Richland	193,384	191,207	190,620	2,177	587
Saluda	8,692	8,607	8,585	85	22
Spartanburg	141,748	141,891	141,680	-143	211
Sumter	42,326	42,014	41,915	312	99
Union	11,231	11,246	11,235	-15	11
Williamsburg	11,791	11,755	11,810	36	-55
York	129,705	130,549	130,083	-844	466

S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index leaps above its 12-month moving average in July



S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), an aggregate of five labor-market indicators, rose sharply in July 2018 to a level of 101.62 from its June revised value of 101.42. The Index climbed above its 12-month moving average, which ticked up to 101.50 for the month from a revised value of 101.47 in June.

Four of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a positive direction in July. The Conference Board’s Help Wanted Online data, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, increased by 5,498 in July to 60,137 from 54,639 in June. The Bureau of Labor Statistic’s Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed production hours increasing to a preliminary 43.4 hours per week in July over its revised June level of 43.3. The Conference Board’s Consumer Confidence Index rose by 0.3 points from June’s revised value of 127.1 to 127.4 in July. The Conference Board’s Employment Trends Index rose in July to 109.89 points from a June revised value of 108.72. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance moved up from a June average of 2,424 per week to a July average of 2,828 per week.

SCESTI is ahead of its year-ago figure of 101.20 in July of 2017. With the Index climbing above the 12-month moving average, SCESTI indicates a more positive employment direction over the next several months.

On the road again

Beep! Beep! Beep! Another transfer truck speeds by on its way to deliver goods and products to customers in different areas of the United States. Lookout!! The truck in the other lane cuts in front of you to turn into the parking lot of the warehouse distribution center. Many ideas begin to surface about what it takes to receive a delivered package in the mail. These services are a part of Transportation and Warehouse Distribution within the Service sector. There are many forms of transportation including, but not limited to, rail, ship, air and ground. We will look at the package cycle from warehouse to shipment. Some occupations that come to mind are packers and packagers, laborers, shipping and receiving clerks, truck drivers, conductors, captains and pilots. (Average (mean) annual wages provided.)

53-7064 Packers and Packagers; Hand pack or package by hand a wide variety of products and materials. (\$22,640 annually)

53-7062 Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers; Hand manually move freight, stock, or other materials or perform other general labor. Includes all manual laborers not elsewhere classified. Excludes "Material Moving Workers" (53-7011 through 53-7199) who use power equipment. Also excludes "Construction Laborers" (47-2061) and "Helpers, Construction Trades" (47-3011 through 47-3019). (\$27,860 annually)

43-5071 Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks verify and maintain records on incoming and outgoing shipments. Prepare items for shipment. Duties include assembling, addressing, stamping and shipping merchandise or material; receiving, unpacking, verifying and recording incoming merchandise or material; and arranging for the transportation of products. Excludes "Stock Clerks and Order Fillers" (43-5081) and "Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping" (43-5111). (\$33,460 annually)

53-3032 Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers drive a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). May be required to unload truck. Requires commercial drivers' license. (\$42,260 annually)

53-4031 Railroad Conductors and Yardmasters coordinate activities of switch-engine crew within railroad yard, industrial plant, or similar location. Conductors coordinate activities of train crew on passenger or freight trains. Yardmasters review train schedules and switching orders and coordinate activities of workers engaged in railroad traffic operations, such as the makeup or breakup of trains and yard switching. (\$58,810 annually)

53-5021 Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels command or supervise operations of ships and water vessels, such as tugboats and ferryboats. Required to hold license issued by U.S. Coast Guard. Excludes "Motorboat Operators" (53-5022). (\$61,050 annually)

On the road again (continued)

53-2011 Airline Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers pilot and navigate the flight of fixed-wing, multi-engine aircraft, usually on scheduled air carrier routes, for the transport of passengers and cargo. Requires Federal Air Transport certificate and rating for specific aircraft type used. Includes regional, national and international airline pilots and flight instructors of airline pilots. (\$104,310 annually)

By land, sea, air or ground, a vast array of services are available to us to ensure timely delivery of our packaged goods regardless of our physical location. Accordingly, the Transportation and Warehouse Distribution industry continues to technologically advance its services, which is a long way from the horse and buggy of years ago!

SOURCE: The Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2017 South Carolina Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_sc.htm