

INSIGHTS

3.4%
August
Unemployment Rate

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S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

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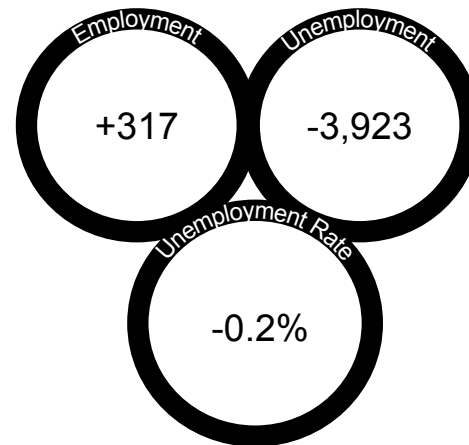
View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment levels continue record climb; Unemployment rate hits 3.4 percent, the lowest ever recorded

The number of individuals working across the state edged up to a new record in August, increasing by 317 to a level of 2,227,867. Unemployment decreased significantly by 3,923 people to 78,416.

The state's labor force fell by 3,606 to a level of 2,306,283, pushing the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate from July's estimate of 3.6 percent down to 3.4 percent. This is the lowest level ever observed for the data series, which extends back to 1976. The unemployment rate has fallen a full percentage point since March 2018.

Nationally, the unemployment rate remained at 3.9 percent, unchanged from July.

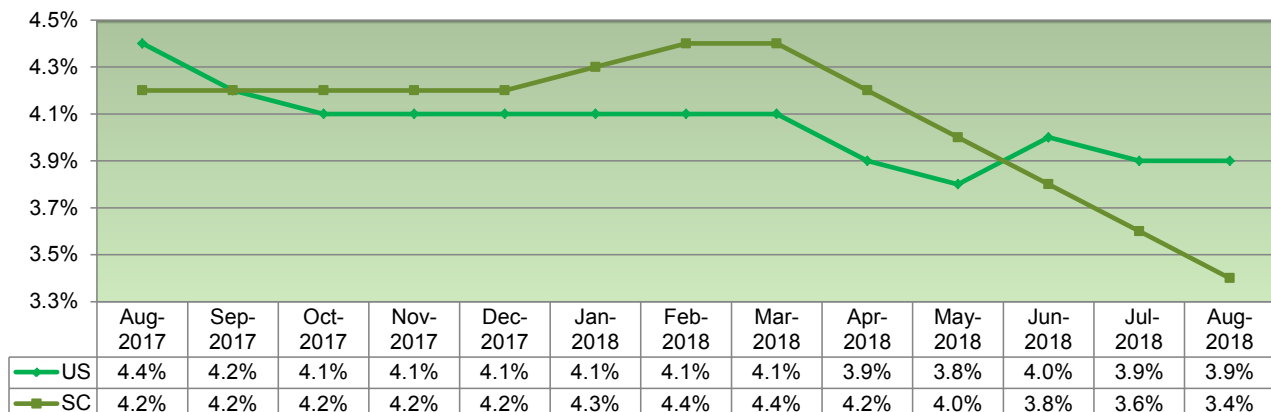


Economic Indicators

August 2018 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	161,776,000	2,306,283
Employed	155,542,000	2,227,867
Unemployed	6,234,000	78,416
Unemp. Rate	3.9%	3.4%

South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
August 2017 - August 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 to lowest ever in August; S.C. rate ranked 17th lowest

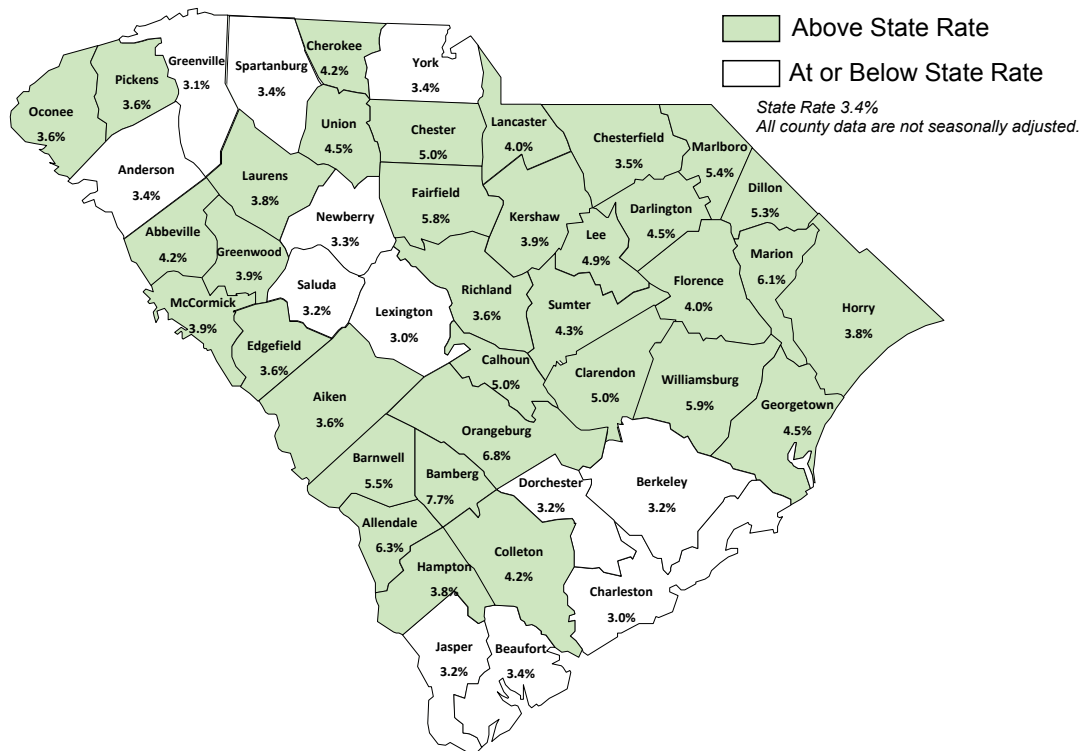
Unemployment rates were lower in August in 13 states, higher in three states, and stable in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Eleven states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, and 39 states and the District had little or no change. The national unemployment rate remained the same as the July rate of 3.9 percent. South Carolina's unemployment rate fell to 3.4 percent, ranking 17th lowest of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

In August 2018, nonfarm payroll employment increased in four states and was essentially unchanged in 46 states and the District of Columbia. The gains were in California (+44,800), Texas (+32,000), Arizona (+21,900) and Florida (+20,500). In percentage terms, the largest increase occurred in Arizona (+0.8 percent), followed by California and Texas (+0.3 percent each) and Florida (+0.2 percent). Thirty-five states had over-the-year increases in nonfarm payroll employment in August.

August unemployment rates by county

In August, not seasonally adjusted, county unemployment rates were mixed as the not seasonally adjusted, statewide unemployment rate, which drives the county rates, rose slightly over the month. Overall, county unemployment rates ranged from 7.7 percent in Bamberg County to 3.0 percent in Charleston and Lexington counties.

Only twelve counties are now at or below the state's official unemployment rate of 3.4 percent.



Hawaii	2.1
Iowa	2.5
North Dakota	2.6
New Hampshire	2.7
Idaho	2.8
Nebraska	2.8
Vermont	2.8
Colorado	2.9
Minnesota	2.9
South Dakota	3.0
Virginia	3.0
Wisconsin	3.0
Utah	3.1
Maine	3.2
Kansas	3.3
Missouri	3.3
South Carolina	3.4
Indiana	3.5
Arkansas	3.6
Massachusetts	3.6
Montana	3.6
Tennessee	3.6
Florida	3.7
Oklahoma	3.7
Georgia	3.8
Oregon	3.8
Delaware	3.9
North Carolina	3.9
Texas	3.9
Wyoming	3.9
United States	3.9
Rhode Island	4.0
Alabama	4.1
Illinois	4.1
Michigan	4.1
Pennsylvania	4.1
California	4.2
Maryland	4.2
New Jersey	4.2
New York	4.2
Connecticut	4.3
Kentucky	4.4
Nevada	4.5
Washington	4.5
Arizona	4.6
New Mexico	4.6
Ohio	4.6
Mississippi	4.8
Louisiana	5.0
West Virginia	5.3
District of Columbia	5.6
Alaska	6.7

August 2018

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Bamberg	7.7%	Charleston	3.0%
Orangeburg	6.8%	Lexington	3.0%
Allendale	6.3%	Greenville	3.1%
Marion	6.1%	Berkeley	3.2%
Williamsburg	5.9%	Dorchester	3.2%

August 2018

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	S.C. (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,110.28	\$835.03
Avg. Weekly Hours	41.0	42.8
Avg. Hourly Wage	\$27.08	\$19.51

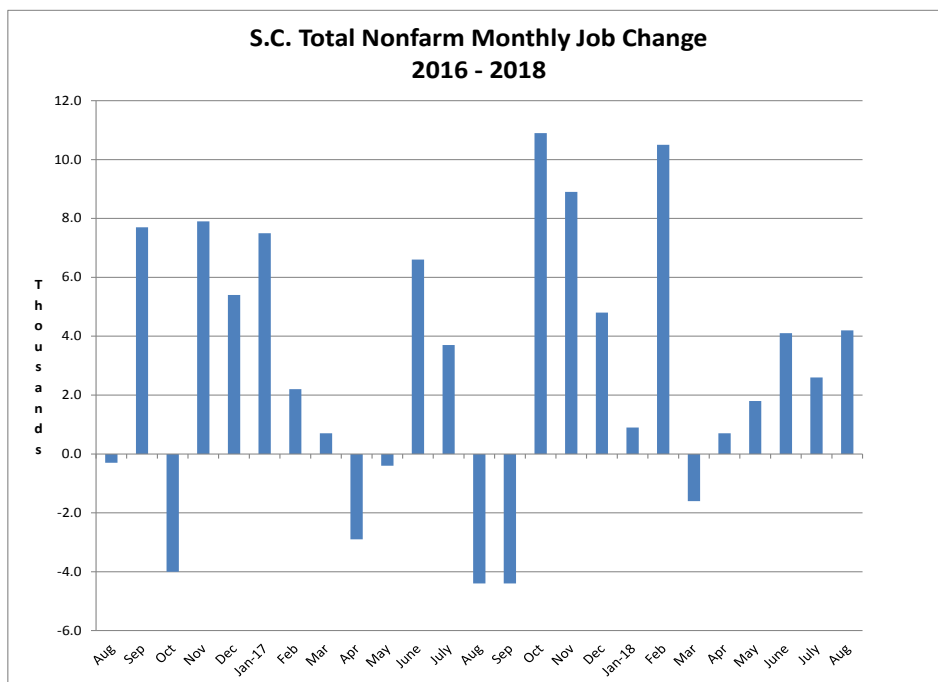
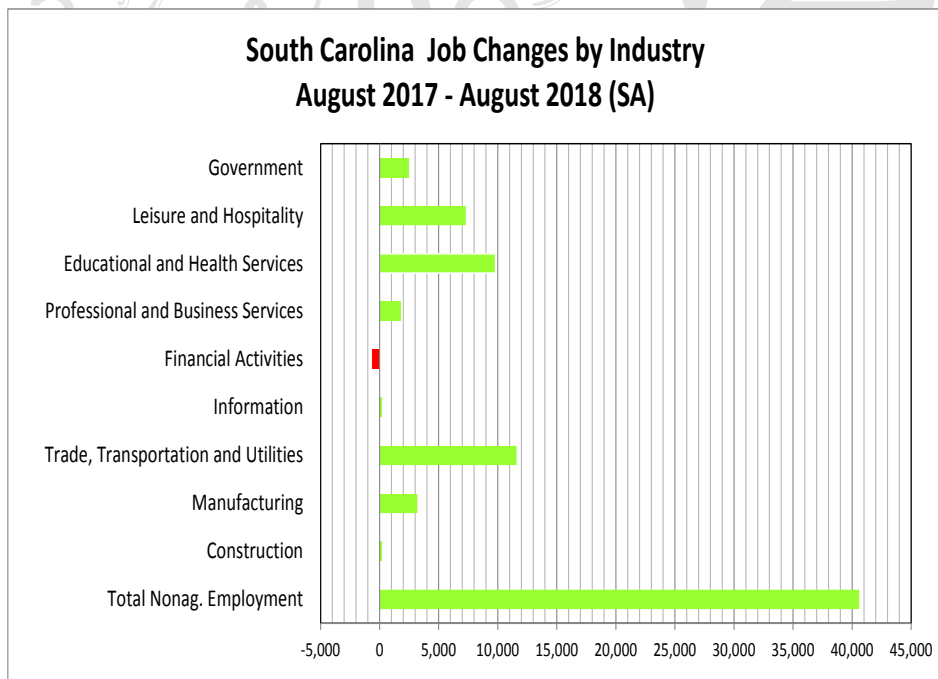
South Carolina nonfarm employment trends for August - seasonally adjusted

In August 2018, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 4,200 over the month to a level of 2,130,400. The change in employment was primarily due to growth in Professional and Business Services (+4,000); Other Services (+1,100); Education and Health Services (+700); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+600); Government (+500) and Financial Activities (+100). The industries reporting declines during the same period were Manufacturing (-1,500); Leisure and Hospitality (-1,000); Construction (-300) and Information (-100).

From August 2017 to August 2018, South Carolina's economy has added 40,600 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs. Industries with noticeable gains were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,600); Education and Health Services (+9,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+7,300); Other Services (+4,300); Manufacturing (+3,200); Government (+2,500); Professional and Business Services (+1,800); Construction (+200) and Information (+200). Declines were reported in Financial Activities (-600).

The Metropolitan Statistical Areas seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payrolls' most significant job growth was in Greenville (+700), Myrtle Beach (+300) and Charleston (+100). Employment in Spartanburg (-700) decreased. The areas that remained the same were Columbia (0), Florence (0), Hilton Head Bluffton Beaufort (0) and Sumter (0).

Over the year, the Metropolitan Statistical Areas saw a surge in seasonally adjusted payroll. Notable employment gains were seen in Greenville (+7,400), Columbia (+6,000), Charleston (+5,300) and Myrtle Beach (+4,900).



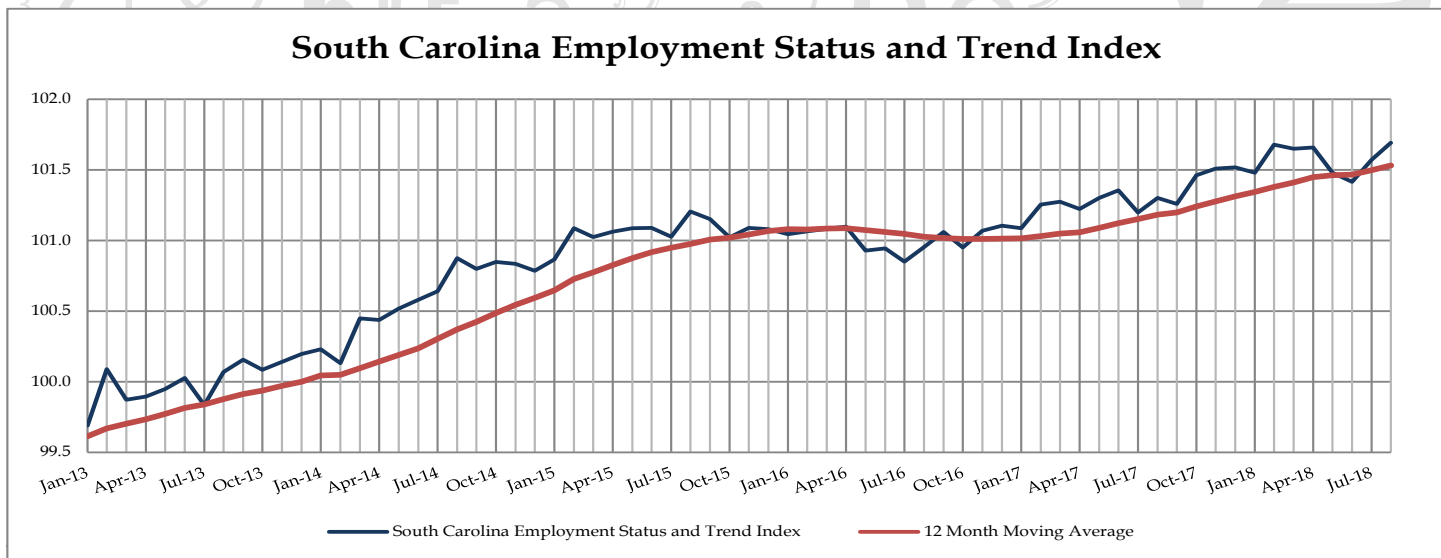
MSA	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Greenville MSA	0.17%	1.78%
Charleston MSA	0.03%	1.49%
Columbia MSA	0.00%	1.51%
Florence MSA	0.00%	1.70%

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

Employment changes by county
August 2018 through June 2018

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Aug 2018	Jul 2018	Jun 2018	Jul '18 - Aug '18	Jun '18 - Jul '18
Abbeville	9,528	9,596	9,606	-68	-10
Aiken	71,919	72,822	72,579	-903	243
Allendale	2,570	2,600	2,595	-30	5
Anderson	85,858	86,482	87,178	-624	-696
Bamberg	4,792	4,842	4,833	-50	9
Barnwell	7,601	7,675	7,661	-74	14
Beaufort	73,333	74,960	74,402	-1,627	558
Berkeley	95,639	96,802	96,315	-1,163	487
Calhoun	6,487	6,573	6,509	-86	64
Charleston	199,490	201,963	201,156	-2,473	807
Cherokee	22,947	23,128	23,104	-181	24
Chester	12,978	12,983	13,039	-5	-56
Chesterfield	20,660	20,837	20,846	-177	-9
Clarendon	11,702	11,828	11,807	-126	21
Colleton	16,126	16,289	16,275	-163	14
Darlington	28,136	28,591	28,529	-455	62
Dillon	11,907	12,051	12,025	-144	26
Dorchester	72,118	73,002	72,646	-884	356
Edgefield	10,153	10,298	10,270	-145	28
Fairfield	9,297	9,413	9,317	-116	96
Florence	61,996	62,931	62,849	-935	82
Georgetown	24,526	24,855	24,800	-329	55
Greenville	237,987	239,680	241,607	-1,693	-1,927
Greenwood	29,192	29,413	29,416	-221	-3
Hampton	7,989	8,120	8,085	-131	35
Horry	144,220	147,928	147,039	-3,708	889
Jasper	12,082	12,350	12,298	-268	52
Kershaw	27,783	28,124	27,840	-341	284
Lancaster	37,858	37,867	38,051	-9	-184
Laurens	28,806	29,030	29,268	-224	-238
Lee	6,027	6,102	6,073	-75	29
Lexington	142,283	143,961	142,519	-1,678	1,442
McCormick	3,211	3,241	3,239	-30	2
Marion	11,741	11,911	11,879	-170	32
Marlboro	8,678	8,749	8,733	-71	16
Newberry	17,704	17,916	17,837	-212	79
Oconee	32,818	33,090	33,126	-272	-36
Orangeburg	32,496	32,800	32,729	-304	71
Pickens	54,167	54,556	55,012	-389	-456
Richland	191,151	193,264	191,207	-2,113	2,057
Saluda	8,538	8,687	8,607	-149	80
Spartanburg	140,262	141,660	141,891	-1,398	-231
Sumter	41,862	42,255	42,014	-393	241
Union	11,113	11,224	11,246	-111	-22
Williamsburg	11,654	11,775	11,755	-121	20
York	129,928	129,893	130,549	35	-656

S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index has another strong month in August



S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), an aggregate of five labor-market indicators, rose again in August 2018 to a level of 101.69 from its July revised value of 101.57. The Index remained above its 12-month moving average, which ticked up to 101.53 for the month from a revised value of 101.50 in July.

Three of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a positive direction in August. The Conference Board’s Consumer Confidence Index rose by 5.5 points from July’s revised value of 127.9 to 133.4 in August. The Conference Board’s Employment Trends Index rose in August to 110.88 points from a July revised value of 109.58. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance moved up from a July average of 2,828 per week to an August average of 2,005 per week. The Conference Board’s Help Wanted Online® data, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, decreased by 1,125 in August to 59,012 from 60,137 in July. The Bureau of Labor Statistic’s Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed production hours dipping slightly to a preliminary 42.8 hours per week in August over its revised July level of 42.9.

SCESTI is ahead of its year-ago figure of 101.30, set in August of 2017. With the Index above its 12-month moving average, SCESTI indicates a more positive employment direction over the next several months.

S.C. Online Job Advertisements

S.C. Avg. Weekly Manufacturing Hours

U.S. Consumer Confidence Index

U.S. Employment Trends Index

S.C. Initial Claims/ Unemployment Insurance

Growing and declining occupations statewide

This article is an excerpt from DEW's [2018 Economic Analysis Report](#).

In 2018, DEW produced statewide occupational employment projections for the period 2016-2026. One goal of projecting employment is to understand which occupations are growing and which ones are declining. This information can help career advisors in the workforce development community or school guidance offices lead their clients into meaningful careers or avoid the obsolete ones. The figure below highlights the fastest growing and declining occupations statewide in percentage terms over the projection period 2016-2026. Many of the listed growing occupations are in the Healthcare industry, while most of the declining occupations are being displaced by technological innovation.

Top 20 Statewide Projected Fastest Growing and Declining Occupations, 2016-2026

Rank	Fastest Growing	Fastest Declining
1	Home Health Aides	Respiratory Therapy Technicians
2	Physician Assistants	Word Processors and Typists
3	Nurse Practitioners	Fallers
4	Statisticians	Computer Operators
5	Personal Care Aides	Legal Secretaries
6	Operations Research Analysts	Data Entry Keyers
7	Software Developers, Applications	Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service
8	Physical Therapist Aides	Coin, Vending, and Amusement Machine Servicers and Repairers
9	Medical Assistants	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers
10	Respiratory Therapists	Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants
11	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals
12	Physical Therapist Assistants	Logging Equipment Operators
13	Massage Therapists	Engine and Other Machine Assemblers
14	Physical Therapists	Photographers
15	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse
16	Machine Feeders and Offbearers	Nuclear Power Reactor Operators
17	Occupational Therapists	Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers
18	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other	Agricultural Equipment Operators
19	Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers	Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters
20	Mental Health Counselors	Chemical Plant and System Operators

Source: S.C. Dept. of Employment and Workforce, Occupational Employment Projections Program

Note: Fastest growing by percent increase with at least 100 new positions, fastest declining by percent decrease with at least 50 fewer positions.