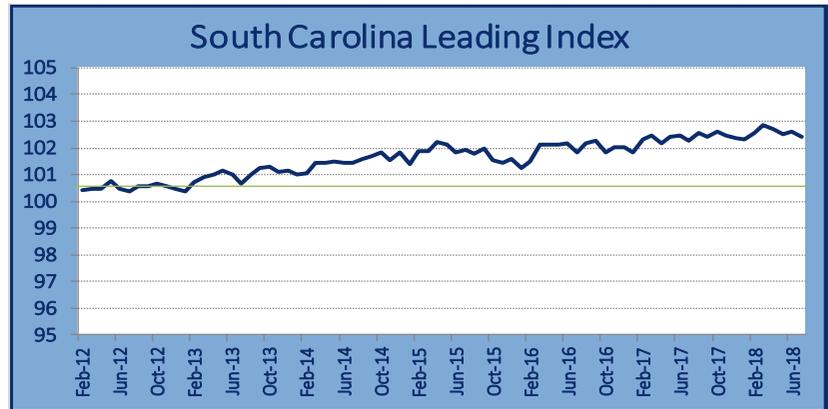




# ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The South Carolina Leading Index (SCLI) fell 0.21 points last month, ending with a value of 102.39, following revisions.

Key metrics were mixed in July, but housing starts and unemployment claims dampened the overall results. The number of issued housing permits decreased by 12.1 percent, and valuation fell 14.3 percent. Unemployment claims rose 23.7 percent. Average weekly manufacturing hours, however, were up 0.2 percent, and the Dow Jones Composite Average rose 4.9 percent.



Source: S.C. Department of Commerce

The Conference Board's national Leading Economic Index rose 0.6 percent in July to 110.7, continuing a long growth trend. Solid growth is expected for the remainder of 2018, as index readings over 100 forecast expansion of the economy.

- Brandon Wilkerson

## KEY S.C. INDICATORS

### Income

**+1.2%** **State Personal Income**  
increased to \$208.0 billion in the 1st quarter of 2018.  
*U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis*

**+1.3%** **S.C. Stock Index**  
rose 2.59 points in July, closing at 196.57 for the month.  
*Bloomberg*

### Real Estate

**-2.4%** **Median Home Sales Price**  
fell \$5,000 from the prior month to \$205,000 for July.  
*South Carolina Association of Realtors*

**-12.1%** **Residential Building Permits**  
fell by 417 permits from the prior month to 3,021 in July.  
*U.S. Census Bureau*

### Employment

**-0.6%** **Nonfarm Employment**  
decreased by 13,500 net non-seasonally adjusted jobs from the prior month.  
*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

**-0.1%** **Labor Force**  
decreased by 3,115 to 2,309,954, seasonally-adjusted, in July.  
*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

**+0.2%** **Manufacturing Weekly Hours**  
rose 0.1 hours to 43.4 hours in July from the prior month, as revised.  
*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

**+10.1%** **Available Online Job Postings**  
increased by 5,500 positions in July to a seasonally-adjusted 60,100 job postings.  
*The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index*

**-0.2%** **Unemployment Rate**  
improved to 3.6 percent, seasonally-adjusted, in July.  
*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

### About S.C. Commerce's Research Division

The Research Division is a highly-skilled, multidisciplinary team of professionals that collects, examines and disseminates data to support economic development in South Carolina. The division furnishes information to companies considering an investment in the state and produces rigorous analysis for stakeholders of all kinds.

Those who wish to receive S.C. Commerce's monthly Economic Outlook can e-mail [bwilkerson@SCcommerce.com](mailto:bwilkerson@SCcommerce.com).

# South Carolina Employment

Non-Seasonally Adjusted Wage and Salary Employment

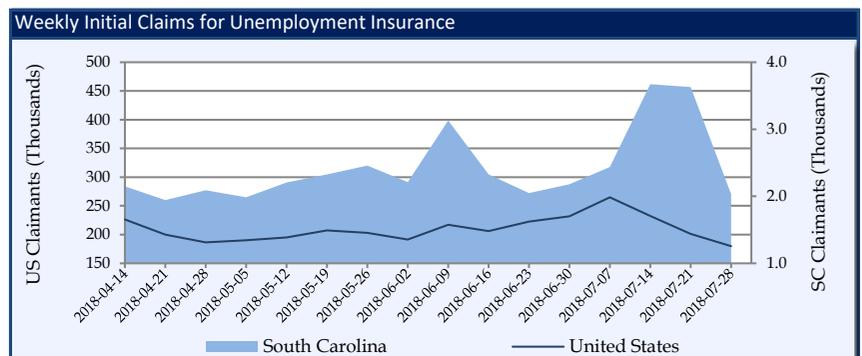
South Carolina's total non-seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment fell by 13,500 net jobs to 2,132,200 in July, a 0.6 percent decrease from revised June numbers but 2.0 percent higher than one year ago. Several sectors reported net job gains for the month, with Construction (+2,000) leading the way. Other sectors with net gains included Manufacturing (+700); Information (+300); and Finance (+300). Sectors reporting a net job loss included Government (-11,300); Professional and Business Services (-2,900); Leisure and Hospitality (-1,200); Educational and Health Services (-600); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-100). Compared to one year ago, the state economy added 42,700 nonfarm jobs.

Industry Sector	July 2018	Previous Month	Previous Year	% Change Month Ago	% Change Year Ago
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>352,000</b>	<b>349,300</b>	<b>351,700</b>	<b>0.77%</b>	<b>0.09%</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	4,500	4,500	4,300	0.00%	4.65%
Construction	101,900	99,900	100,000	2.00%	1.90%
Manufacturing	245,600	244,900	247,400	0.29%	-0.73%
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1,780,200</b>	<b>1,796,400</b>	<b>1,737,800</b>	<b>-0.90%</b>	<b>2.44%</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	409,000	409,100	400,700	-0.02%	2.07%
Information	28,200	27,900	26,400	1.08%	6.82%
Finance	103,500	103,200	102,200	0.29%	1.27%
Professional and Business Services	277,100	280,000	273,500	-1.04%	1.32%
Educational and Health Services	250,500	251,100	244,100	-0.24%	2.62%
Leisure and Hospitality	278,300	279,500	263,500	-0.43%	5.62%
Other Services	78,500	79,200	72,800	-0.88%	7.83%
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,777,100</b>	<b>1,779,300</b>	<b>1,734,900</b>	<b>-0.12%</b>	<b>2.43%</b>
Government	355,100	366,400	354,600	-3.08%	0.14%
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>2,132,200</b>	<b>2,145,700</b>	<b>2,089,500</b>	<b>-0.63%</b>	<b>2.04%</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Weekly Unemployment Claims

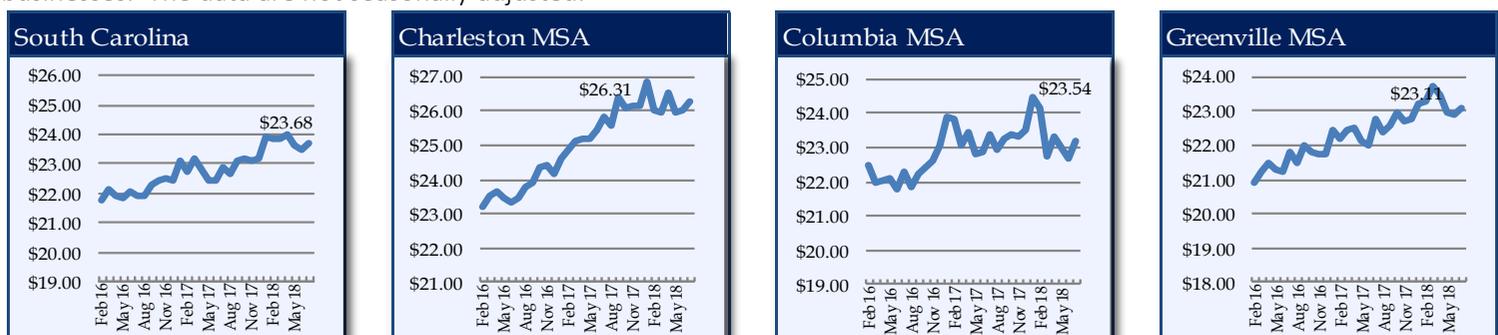
The average number of initial reported claims for unemployment insurance in the state increased in July. The average for the month was 2,942 weekly initial claims, up 23.7 percent month-over-month. Five of the six largest MSAs reported increased claims versus June, including Greenville (+82.7 percent), Spartanburg (+78.2 percent), Charleston (+19.6 percent), Myrtle Beach (+13.9 percent) and Florence (+4.1 percent). Columbia reported a decrease in claims month-over-month (-9.3 percent).



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Average Hourly Earnings

These charts present the average hourly earnings of all employees in private industry, based on a monthly national survey of businesses. The data are not seasonally adjusted.



Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

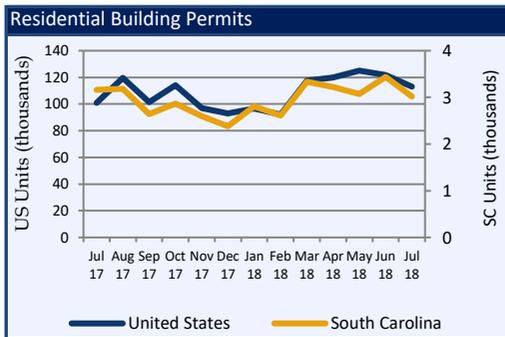
# Real Estate & Business Activity

In July, the number of building permits issued in South Carolina for new residential construction fell 12.1 percent to 3,021. This figure was nevertheless 6.9 percent higher year-to-date than the same point in 2017. Valuation for the permits fell 14.3 percent month-over-month but was 5.9 percent higher year-to-date versus 2017. Total closings fell 8.5 percent compared to June, and the median sales price dropped 2.4 percent. Foreclosure activity decreased 5.7 percent compared to July 2017. Among the top six MSAs, total closings were up for Spartanburg (+5.6 percent), with all others seeing a decline month-over-month.

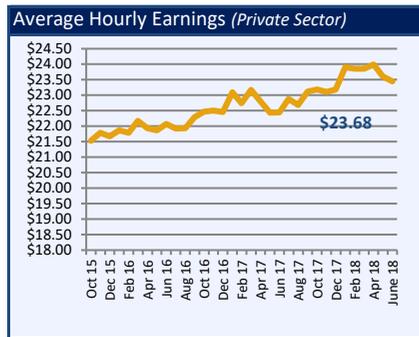
	Month	Current	Previous Year	% Change Year Ago	2018 YTD	2017 YTD	% Change YTD
Closings	July	7,534	7,248	3.9%	48,893	46,444	5.3%
Median Sales Price*	July	\$205.0	\$194.8	5.2%	\$201.4	\$189.0	6.6%
Foreclosures	July	1,414	1,499	-5.7%	11,800	13,072	-9.7%
Residential Building Permits -Total	July	3,021	3,162	-4.5%	21,506	20,125	6.9%
Residential Building Permits -Valuation*	July	\$621,559	\$667,572	-6.9%	\$4,833,436	\$4,565,620	5.9%

\* Thousands of US dollars. Source: S.C. Association of Realtors, RealtyTrac, U.S. Census.

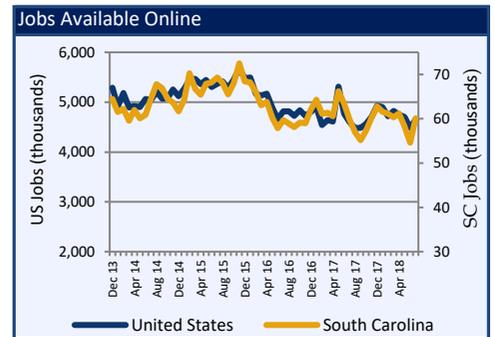
## Business Activity



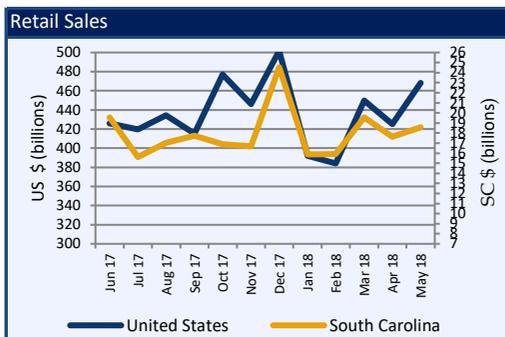
Source: U.S. Census



Source: U.S. Department of Labor



Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index

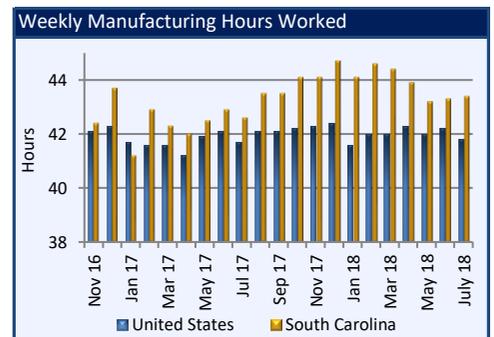


Source: South Carolina Department of Revenue



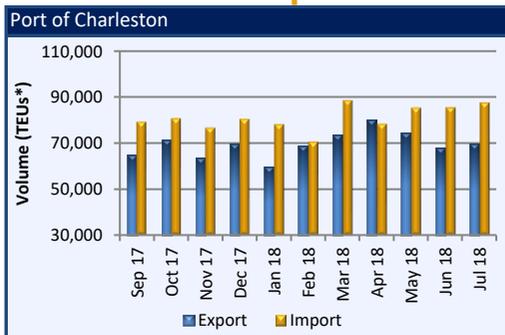
\*Represents publicly-traded companies headquartered in SC.

Source: Bloomberg



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

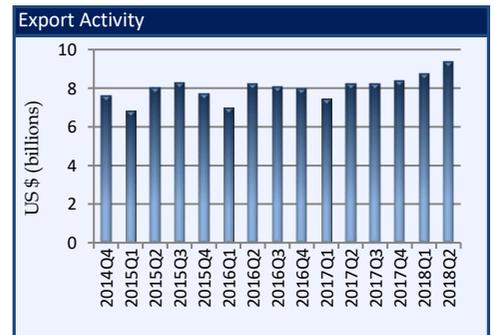
## Income and Output



\*Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units. Source: SC Ports Authority



Source: U.S. Census



Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census

# Regional Updates

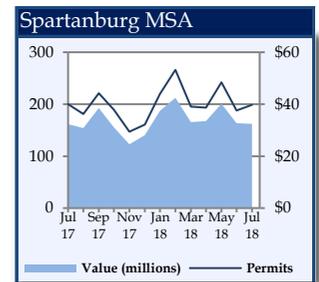
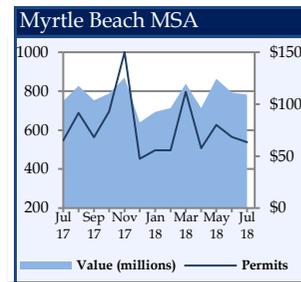
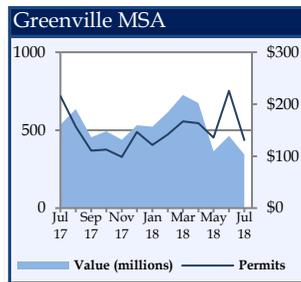
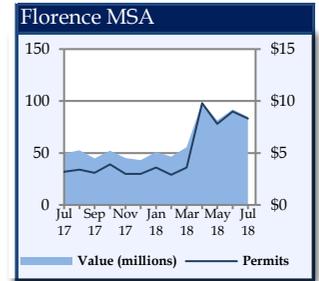
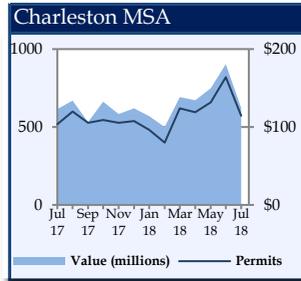
The South Carolina Regional Update provides a snapshot of the most recent economic figures for the six largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the state.

## Home Sales

MSA	Indicator	Jul 17	Jul 18
Charleston	Sales Volume	1,831	1,796
	Median Price (000's)	\$250	\$258
Columbia	Sales Volume	1,238	1,322
	Median Price (000's)	\$163	\$171
Florence	Sales Volume	212	192
	Median Price (000's)	\$125	\$155
Greenville	Sales Volume	1,232	1,278
	Median Price (000's)	\$195	\$217
Myrtle Beach	Sales Volume	1,193	1,294
	Median Price (000's)	\$175	\$180
Spartanburg	Sales Volume	491	492
	Median Price (000's)	\$160	\$168
South Carolina	Sales Volume	7,248	7,534
	Median Price (000's)	\$194.8	\$205.0

Source: S.C. Association of Realtors.

## Building Permits



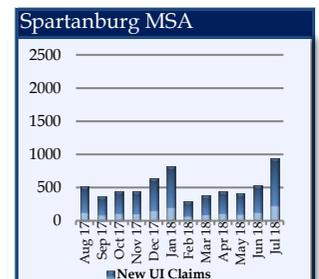
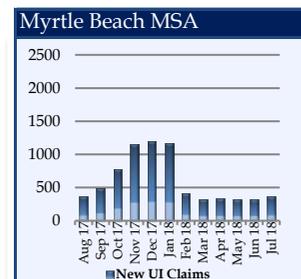
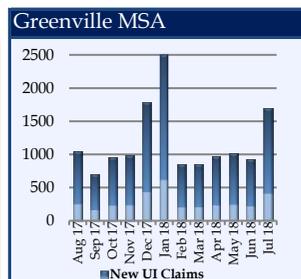
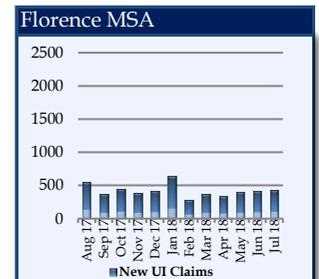
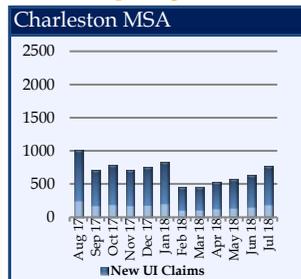
Source: U.S. Census

## Employment

MSA	Indicator	Jun 18	Jul 18
Charleston	Employment (000's)	370.1	371.4
	Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.0
Columbia	Employment (000's)	386.0	390.3
	Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.4
Florence	Employment (000's)	91.4	91.6
	Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.0
Greenville	Employment (000's)	413.1	410.4
	Unemployment Rate	3.3	3.3
Myrtle Beach	Employment (000's)	199.7	200.9
	Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.0
Spartanburg	Employment (000's)	153.1	153.0
	Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.4
South Carolina	Employment (000's)	2,226.0	2,227.6
	Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.6

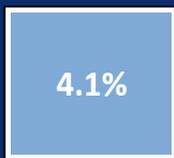
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (unadjusted figures)

## Unemployment Insurance Claims

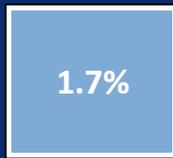


Source: SCDOC analysis of SCDEW data

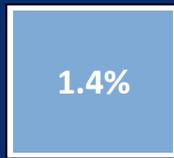
## Manufacturing Employment Growth, July 2017 to July 2018



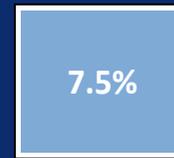
Charleston



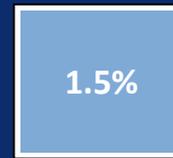
Columbia



Greenville



Spartanburg



Sumter

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, August 2018