United States Congress
Joint Economic Committee
Est. 1946 — Republicans
Representative David Schweikert, *Chairman*

South Carolina

Employment Update

August 2026 | Released September 18, 2026

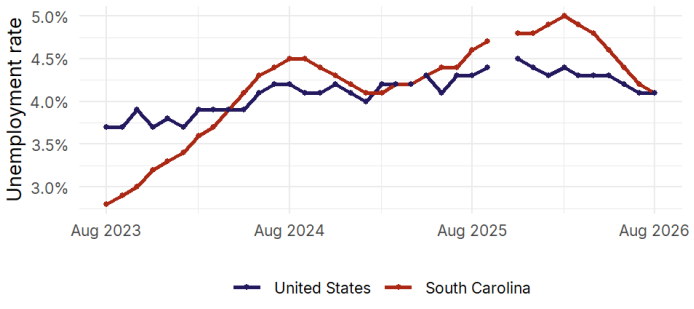
United States Employment Snapshot

- In August, among the 50 states and the District of Columbia **unemployment fell in 28, rose in 4, and remained unchanged in 19.**
- The highest unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in **District of Columbia**, and the lowest was 2 percent in **South Dakota**. Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged in August.
- In August, **payroll jobs rose in 35 states and fell in 16.** The largest payroll job percent increase was 0.6 percent in **New Mexico**. The largest payroll job percent decline was 0.3 percent in **Maryland**.

South Carolina Employment Snapshot

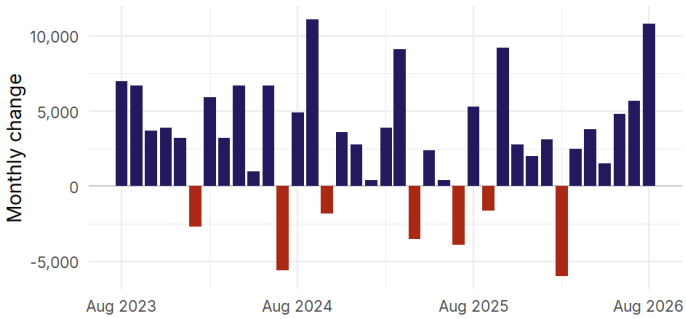
- In August, **South Carolina added 10,800 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 4.1 percent**. In the prior month, South Carolina added 5,700 net payroll jobs.
- Over the past 12 months, **South Carolina added 38,600 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage points from 4.6 percent**.
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 162,000 in August, or 0.1 percent.** South Carolina **is tied for 1st** in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- In August, **South Carolina's private sector added 8,100 net private payroll jobs**, and over the past 12 months it added 32,700 private payroll jobs. In the prior month, South Carolina added 4,800 net private payroll jobs.
- In August, employment in South Carolina **rose by 6,208**, and over the past 12 months it rose by 73,996.
- **South Carolina's labor force participation rate remained steady at 58.8 percent** in August and **is tied for 40th** in the nation. In the past 12 months, the labor force participation rate has risen by 0.5 percentage points.

Unemployment Rate in South Carolina
August 2023 to August 2026



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

Change in Nonfarm Payrolls in South Carolina
August 2023 to August 2026



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

Read the full release (https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/republicans/sc/)