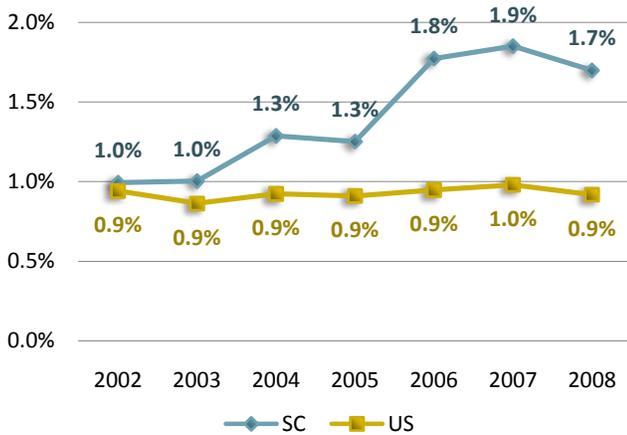


# FACT SHEET: South Carolina Population and Employment Growth, 2002 – 2008

Employment growth in South Carolina has outpaced the US since 2002. South Carolina’s unemployed population, however, has continued to grow, fueled in part by increases in the labor force due to population growth and immigration. A snapshot of changes in the state’s population, labor force, employment, and unemployment is provided here.

## Population

**Population Growth: SC Versus US, 2002 – 2008**

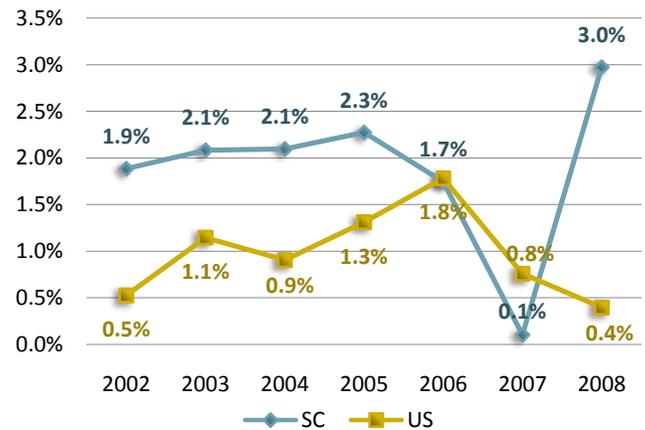


Source: US Census Bureau

- ▶ South Carolina’s population grew by 377,589 (9.2%) individuals between 2002 and 2008 to 4,479,800, the 10<sup>th</sup> highest growth rate in the United States. During the same time, the US population grew by 5.7%.
- ▶ 70.6% of population growth during this period came from net migration into the state (from other states or from abroad).
- ▶ South Carolina’s population growth rates have averaged 1.41% since 2002, while the US rate has average 0.93%.

## Labor Force

**Labor Force Growth: SC Versus US, 2002 – 2008**



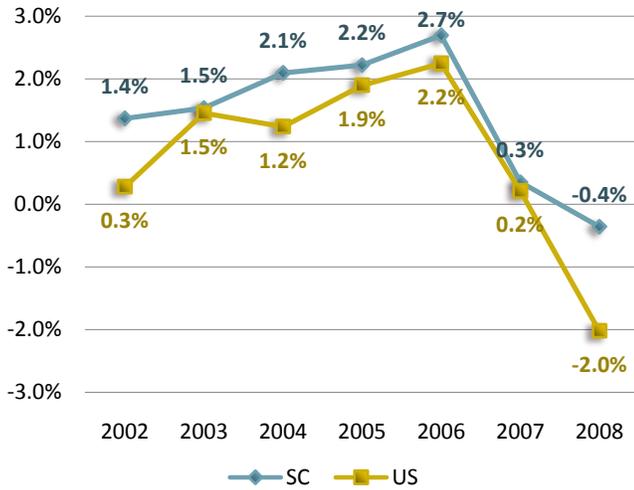
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics;

Note: Rates represent annual growth, December over December.

- ▶ Between 2002 and 2008, South Carolina’s labor force increased by 267,825 people, a 13.9% increase. During the same time, the US labor force increased by 10,142,000, a 7% increase.
- ▶ South Carolina’s labor force increased more rapidly than the US for every year except 2006 and 2007, and witnessed especially large gains in 2008.
- ▶ Labor force changes can be driven by a variety of factors, including
  - ▶ Population growth,
  - ▶ Discouraged workers (who can’t find jobs) leaving the labor force, and
  - ▶ Financially strained individuals re-entering the labor force to seek work.

## Employment

**Employment Growth: SC Versus US, 2002 – 2008**

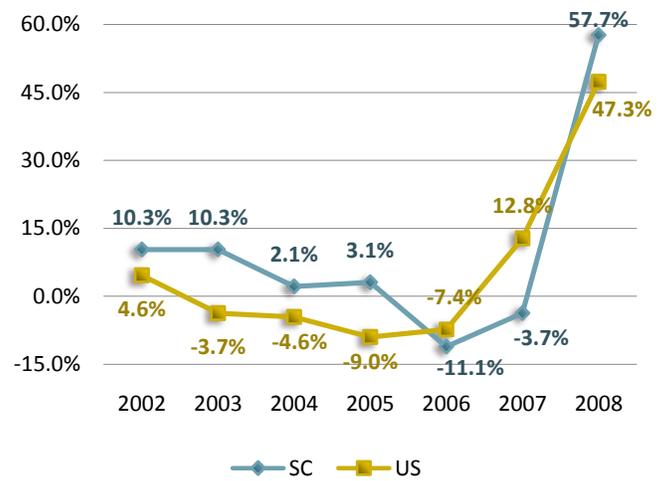


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Note: Rates represent annual growth, December over December.

- ▶ Employed individuals grew by 186,465 (10.3%) in South Carolina between 2002 and 2008, increasing the total number of employed to 2,000,103 by December 2008. In the US, the growth was 7,291,000 jobs (5.4%), reaching 143,338,000 by December 2008.
- ▶ South Carolina experienced job growth rate higher than the US for every year between 2002 and 2008.
- ▶ South Carolina experienced lower job loss than the US in 2008.

## Unemployment

**Unemployment Growth: SC Versus US, 2002 – 2008**



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Note: Rates represent annual growth, December over December.

- ▶ The number of unemployed is defined as the difference between the size of the labor force and the number of employed.
- ▶ The number of unemployed individuals in South Carolina exhibited the following characteristics:
  - ▶ Grew more rapidly than the US rate between 2002 and 2005,
  - ▶ Declined in 2006 and 2007 at rates faster than the US, and
  - ▶ Increased faster than the US in 2008.