



## SC Leading Index Mostly Flat in June

The South Carolina Leading Index (SCLI) fell 0.023 points to 102.088 in June. This slight dropoff reflected the month's mixed economic indicators. Permits for new residential construction rose 4.6 percent, and the permits' valuation rose 0.4 percent from May. The Dow Jones Composite Average climbed 0.9 percent month-over-month. However, initial claims for unemployment insurance rose 6.1 percent and manufacturing hours fell 0.7 percent. The Conference Board's national Leading Economic Index increased 0.3 percent in June.

- Brandon Wilkerson

South Carolina Leading Index



Source: South Carolina Department of Commerce

## Real Estate Market Continues to Show Vigor

The median sales price for a single-family home made a repeat of last month's strong results, gaining 4.1 percent in June to \$189,500. Closings were also up, climbing 6.9 percent to 8,201. This represented a 9.9 percent improvement from the same time last year. Foreclosure activity fell 12.8 percent month-over-month and 11.1 percent compared to June 2015. For the six largest MSAs, closings rose the most in Charleston (+13.5 percent) and Myrtle Beach (+11.0 percent). The Florence MSA saw its median sales price jump 12.8 percent, followed by Spartanburg, where prices rose 7.1 percent. Florence, nonetheless, was the only MSA reporting a decline in month-over-month closings (-0.5 percent); none of the MSAs saw a drop in median sales price.

The Research Division at the South Carolina Department of Commerce is a highly-skilled, multidisciplinary team of professionals dedicated to the economic development of South Carolina and the collection, examination, and dissemination of information to support that mission. The Research Division publishes reports and analyses for stakeholders statewide, and furnishes information for companies considering an investment in South Carolina. If you would like to receive Commerce's monthly Economic Outlook, e-mail [bwilkerson@SCcommerce.com](mailto:bwilkerson@SCcommerce.com).

## KEY S.C. INDICATORS

### Income

+1.6%

#### State Personal Income

increased to \$192.6 billion in the first quarter of 2016.

*U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis*

+1.9%

#### South Carolina Stock Index

rose 2.1 points in June, closing at 111.05 on the last trading day of the month.

*Bloomberg*

### Employment

+0.3%

#### Nonfarm Employment

increased by 5,200 net non-seasonally adjusted jobs from the prior month.

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

-0.2%

#### Labor Force

decreased by 4,161 to 2,310,772, seasonally-adjusted, in June.

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

-0.2%

#### Unemployment Rate

decreased to 5.4 percent, seasonally-adjusted, for June.

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

-0.7%

#### Manufacturing Weekly Hours

decreased by 0.3 hours to 42.2 hours in June from 42.5 hours in May.

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

-3.8%

#### Available Online Job Postings

decreased by 2,300 positions in June to a seasonally-adjusted 57,900 job postings.

*The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index*

### Real Estate

+4.1%

#### Single-Family Home Sales Price

increased by \$7,400 to \$189,500 in June.

*South Carolina Association of Realtors*

+4.6%

#### Residential Building Permits

increased by 136 permits from the previous month to 3,093 issued in June.

*U.S. Census Bureau*



## South Carolina Employment

*Non-Seasonally Adjusted Wage and Salary Employment*

South Carolina's total non-seasonally adjusted, nonfarm employment grew by 5,200 net jobs to 2,067,900 in June, improving 0.3 percent since May, and 2.9 percent compared to one year ago. The Leisure and Hospitality sector, which added a net 5,300 jobs, led all other sectors in gains for the fourth straight month.

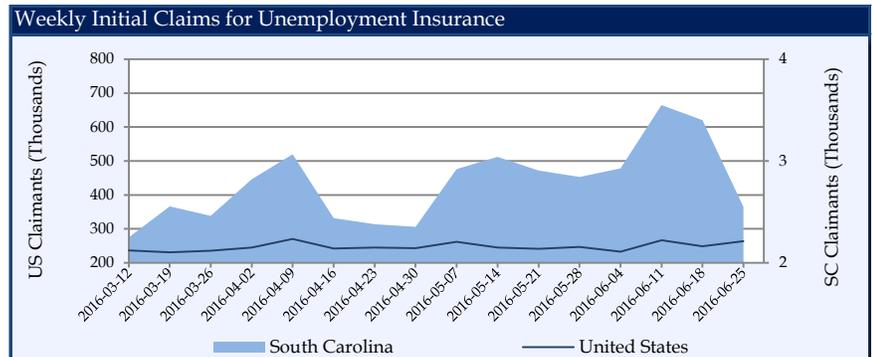
Other sectors enjoying strong results were Professional and Business Services, with +4,100 jobs in June; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,800); and Finance (+1,600). The month's biggest losses came from the Government sector (-4,900) and the Education and Health Services sector (-2,900). From one year ago, the state economy has added 50,400 net nonfarm jobs.

Industry Sector	June 2016	Previous Month	Previous Year	% Change Month Ago	% Change Year Ago
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>337,900</b>	<b>337,300</b>	<b>328,300</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>2.92</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,100	4,000	0.00	2.50
Construction	94,100	93,400	87,700	0.75	7.30
Manufacturing	239,700	239,800	236,600	-0.04	1.31
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1,730,000</b>	<b>1,725,400</b>	<b>1,689,200</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>2.42</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	391,500	389,700	387,400	0.46	1.06
Information	26,700	26,500	26,700	0.75	0.00
Finance	100,700	99,100	98,100	1.61	2.65
Professional and Business Services	278,700	274,600	261,800	1.49	6.46
Educational and Health Services	240,700	243,600	232,400	-1.19	3.57
Leisure and Hospitality	254,800	249,500	250,500	2.12	1.72
Other Services	73,900	74,500	74,300	-0.81	-0.54
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,704,900</b>	<b>1,694,800</b>	<b>1,659,500</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>2.74</b>
Government	363,000	367,900	358,000	-1.33	1.40
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>2,067,900</b>	<b>2,062,700</b>	<b>2,017,500</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>2.50</b>

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

### Weekly Unemployment Claims

The number of initial claims for unemployment insurance in the state rose somewhat in June. The average for the month was 3,107 weekly initial claims, a 6.1 percent increase versus May, but down 12.5 percent compared to one year ago and 25.1 percent lower than two years ago. Most of the top six MSAs saw increases, with Spartanburg and Charleston reporting the steepest jumps, at 58.5 percent and 40.3 percent, respectively. Myrtle Beach, in the midst of the tourism season, had 1.4 percent fewer claims than one month ago.



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



## South Carolina Real Estate

Last month, the number of building permits issued in South Carolina for new residential construction rose 4.6 percent to 3,093. This figure was 22.3 percent higher than that of June 2015. Valuation for the permits rose only 0.4 percent, but was up 10.8 percent from one year ago. Total closings for the month rose 6.9 percent, and median sales price rose 4.1 percent. Both metrics were also up compared to the same point in 2015. Foreclosure activity was down in June and had dropped 11.1 percent from one year ago.

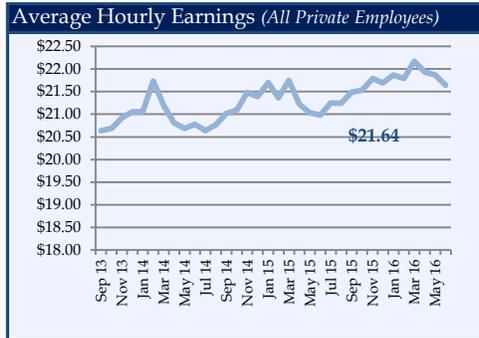
	Month	Current	Previous Year	% Change Year Ago	2016 YTD	2015 YTD	% Change YTD
Closings	June	8,201	7,460	9.9%	38,912	35,824	8.6%
Median Sales Price*	June	\$189.5	\$182.0	4.1%	\$177.2	\$169.9	4.3%
Foreclosures	June	1,989	2,238	-11.1%	13,364	13,009	2.7%
Residential Building Permits -Total	June	3,093	2,530	22.3%	15,647	15,703	-0.4%
Residential Building Permits -Valuation*	June	\$578,670	\$522,442	10.8%	\$3,176,732	\$3,089,087	2.8%

\*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

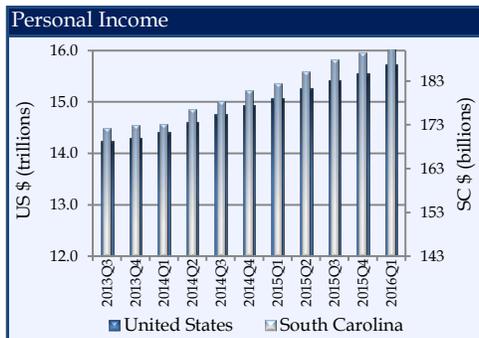


Source: U.S. Department of Labor

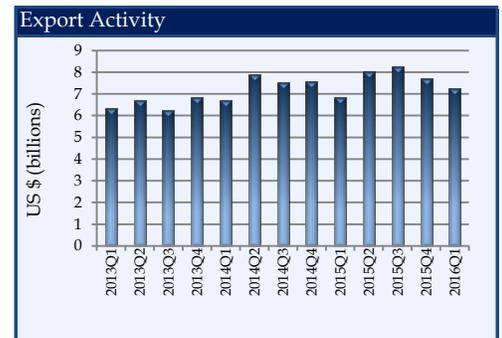
## Income and Output



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



Source: U.S. Census



Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census



# South Carolina Regional Update

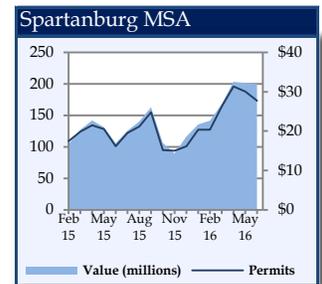
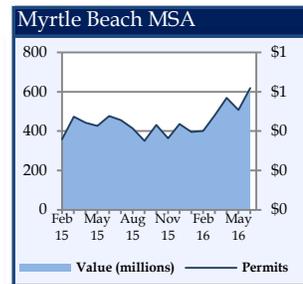
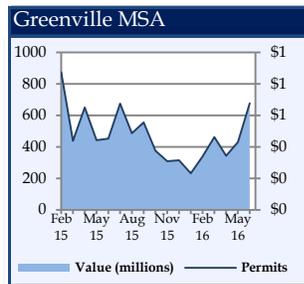
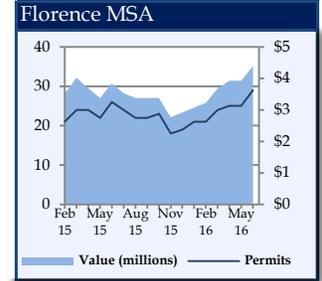
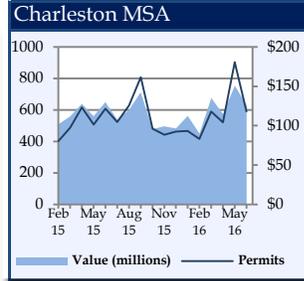
The South Carolina Regional Update provides a snapshot of the most recent economic figures for the six largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the state.

## Home Sales

MSA	Indicator	June 15	June 16
Charleston	Sales Volume	1,715	1,925
	Median Price (000's)	\$240	\$250
Columbia	Sales Volume	1,153	1,261
	Median Price (000's)	\$161	\$165
Florence	Sales Volume	181	203
	Median Price (000's)	\$133	\$150
Greenville	Sales Volume	1,250	1,311
	Median Price (000's)	\$179	\$190
Myrtle Beach	Sales Volume	1,219	1,253
	Median Price (000's)	\$173	\$168
Spartanburg	Sales Volume	430	446
	Median Price (000's)	\$146	\$150
South Carolina	Sales Volume	7,460	8,201
	Median Price (000's)	\$182.0	\$189.5

Source: S.C. Association of Realtors.

## Building Permits



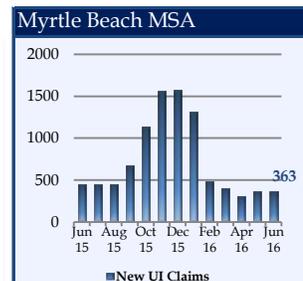
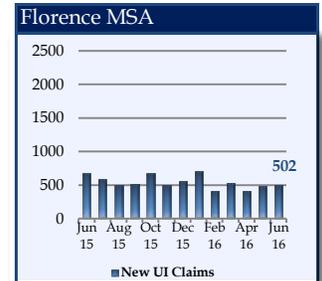
Source: U.S. Census

## Employment

MSA	Indicator	May 16	Jun 16
Charleston	Employment (000's)	354.3	357.6
	Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.9
Columbia	Employment (000's)	385.2	386.0
	Unemployment Rate	4.6	5.3
Florence	Employment (000's)	91.2	91.0
	Unemployment Rate	5.5	6.3
Greenville	Employment (000's)	404.6	404.9
	Unemployment Rate	4.3	5.2
Myrtle Beach	Employment (000's)	182.1	187.5
	Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.6
Spartanburg	Employment (000's)	145.8	145.9
	Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.7
South Carolina	Employment (000's)	2,185.1	2,185.2
	Unemployment Rate	5.6	5.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (MSA figures not seasonally adjusted)

## Unemployment Insurance Claims



Source: SCDOC analysis of SCDEW data

## Brookings Metro Monitor - Growth Ranking of 100 Largest US Metro Areas Since 2009



Source: Brookings Metro Monitor - January 2016