

South Carolina Private-Sector Employment by Firm Size



Introduction

This analysis uses the measure beginning-of-quarter employment from the U.S. Census Bureau's Longitudinal Household-Employer Dynamics (LEHD) Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) program. The presentation examines private-sector employment in terms of firm size along with the percent breakdown by category for the fourth quarter of 2017 (the latest available in the dataset).

Beginning-of-quarter employment (Emp) is defined as the estimate of the total number of jobs on the first day of the reference quarter. Beginning-of-quarter employment counts are similar to point-in-time employment measures such as the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

Employment is classified by five firm-size categories.

These are:

- Firm-size categories:
- 0-19 employees,
- 20-49 employees,
- 50-249 employees,
- 250-499 employees and
- 500+ employees.

The presentation displays several geographies in South Carolina, including

- metropolitan/micropolitan,
- workforce development area (WDA),
- county and
- statewide.

It also displays employment size by industry sector for the state as a whole.

The following slides present the key findings of the analysis, the employment by firm size, additional information about the data source utilized and required language of the analysis' funding grant.

Key Findings

- South Carolina's private sector employment in the fourth quarter of 2017 was 1.69 million with 18 percent in the 0-10 employee category and 51 percent in the 500+ employee category.
- For the metro/micro areas, Union had the highest percent employment (68 percent) in the upper category, followed by Gaffney (61 percent) and Augusta (59 percent). Georgetown had the lowest employment percent (25 percent) in that category with Hilton Head Island (29 percent) and Myrtle Beach (39 percent) following. In the lowest employment category, Spartanburg (14 percent), Gaffney (15 percent) and Columbia (16 percent) had the smallest percent of employment with Georgetown (32 percent), Hilton Head Island (29 percent) and Myrtle Beach (25 percent) having the highest percent.
- For the WDAs, Upstate had the highest percent employment (58 percent) in the upper category, followed by Greenville (57 percent) and Lower Savannah (57 percent). Lowcountry had the lowest employment percent (30 percent) in that category with Waccamaw (37 percent) and Trident (47 percent) following. In the lowest employment category, Upstate (15 percent), Midlands (15 percent) and Greenville (15 percent) had the smallest percent of employment with Lowcountry (30 percent), Waccamaw (26 percent) and Santee-Lynches (22 percent) having the highest percent.

Key Findings

- For the counties, Union had the highest percent employment (68 percent) in the upper category, followed by Laurens (64 percent) and Saluda (62 percent). Jasper had the lowest employment percent (19 percent) in that category with Hampton (21 percent) and Georgetown (25 percent) following. In the lowest employment category, Laurens (12 percent), Chesterfield (12 percent) and Richland (14 percent) had the smallest percent of employment with Clarendon (34 percent), Georgetown (32 percent) and Beaufort (30 percent) having the highest percent.
- For South Carolina industry sectors, Management of Companies had the highest percent employment (75 percent) in the upper category, followed by Information (74 percent) and Utilities (72 percent). Other Services had the lowest employment percent (16 percent) in that category with Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (18 percent) and Agriculture (18 percent) following. In the lowest employment category, Management of Companies (4 percent), Utilities (4 percent) and Manufacturing (7 percent) had the smallest percent of employment with Other Services (52 percent), Agriculture (47 percent) and Construction (37 percent) having the highest percent.

Private-Sector Employment by Firm Size Analysis

Employment by Firm Size for South Carolina Geographies in the Fourth Quarter of 2017

Geography Type	Geography Label	All Firm Sizes	0-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-249 Employees	250-499 Employees	500+ Employees	0-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-249 Employees	250-499 Employees	500+ Employees
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC (SC part)	53,959	8,635	4,542	6,312	2,502	31,968	16%	8%	12%	5%	59%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Bennettsville, SC	4,850	879	505	669	180	2,617	18%	10%	14%	4%	54%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Charleston-North Charleston, SC	285,534	55,230	32,012	48,692	14,679	134,922	19%	11%	17%	5%	47%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC (SC part)	110,706	20,281	10,600	16,014	5,543	58,268	18%	10%	14%	5%	53%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Columbia, SC	308,115	47,744	27,067	41,748	19,411	172,145	15%	9%	14%	6%	56%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Florence, SC	68,037	12,238	6,810	10,101	4,936	33,952	18%	10%	15%	7%	50%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Gaffney, SC	18,835	2,747	1,307	1,811	1,439	11,529	15%	7%	10%	8%	61%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Georgetown, SC	17,405	5,509	2,675	4,110	799	4,313	32%	15%	24%	5%	25%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Greenville-Anderson, SC	349,597	57,172	31,233	49,468	18,498	193,226	16%	9%	14%	5%	55%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Greenwood, SC	20,101	3,789	1,789	3,220	1,588	9,715	19%	9%	16%	8%	48%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Hilton Head Island-Bluffton, SC	61,406	18,019	8,687	12,833	3,890	17,977	29%	14%	21%	6%	29%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC (SC part)	108,799	27,255	13,535	22,030	3,985	41,994	25%	12%	20%	4%	39%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Newberry, SC	11,864	2,083	1,000	2,038	674	6,069	18%	8%	17%	6%	51%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Orangeburg, SC	25,126	4,379	1,804	3,393	1,981	13,568	17%	7%	14%	8%	54%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Seneca, SC	19,979	4,266	1,869	2,336	1,279	10,229	21%	9%	12%	6%	51%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Spartanburg, SC	120,394	17,384	9,835	17,979	6,712	68,483	14%	8%	15%	6%	57%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Sumter, SC	36,254	7,367	2,676	5,269	3,182	17,760	20%	7%	15%	9%	49%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Union, SC	6,039	936	382	505	129	4,085	15%	6%	8%	2%	68%
Metropolitan/Micropolitan (state part)	Nonmetropolitan, nonmicropolitan, SC	64,451	12,271	6,059	11,298	3,449	31,374	19%	9%	18%	5%	49%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Quarterly Workforce Indicators (1990-2018), Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program, Beginning of Quarter Employment

Private-Sector Employment by Firm Size Analysis

Employment by Firm Size for South Carolina Geographies in the Fourth Quarter of 2017

Geography Type	Geography Label	All Firm Sizes	0-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-249 Employees	250-499 Employees	500+ Employees	0-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-249 Employees	250-499 Employees	500+ Employees
Workforce Investment Areas	10 Pendleton District WIB	101,375	21,443	10,011	15,440	6,453	48,029	21%	10%	15%	6%	47%
Workforce Investment Areas	15 Greenville WIB	249,206	37,756	21,680	34,261	12,263	143,246	15%	9%	14%	5%	57%
Workforce Investment Areas	20 Upstate WIB	145,267	21,068	11,525	20,296	8,281	84,097	15%	8%	14%	6%	58%
Workforce Investment Areas	25 Upper Savannah WIB	64,381	10,778	5,331	9,717	4,245	34,309	17%	8%	15%	7%	53%
Workforce Investment Areas	45 Pee Dee WIB	99,222	17,160	9,074	14,714	6,319	51,956	17%	9%	15%	6%	52%
Workforce Investment Areas	50 Lower Savannah WIB	89,303	14,747	7,099	11,410	5,386	50,661	17%	8%	13%	6%	57%
Workforce Investment Areas	60 Catawba WIB	110,706	20,281	10,600	16,014	5,543	58,268	18%	10%	14%	5%	53%
Workforce Investment Areas	65 Santee-Lynches WIB	52,403	11,420	4,076	8,103	3,833	24,971	22%	8%	15%	7%	48%
Workforce Investment Areas	85 Waccamaw WIB	133,840	34,246	16,623	27,776	5,395	49,800	26%	12%	21%	4%	37%
Workforce Investment Areas	95 Trident WIB	285,534	55,230	32,012	48,692	14,679	134,922	19%	11%	17%	5%	47%
Workforce Investment Areas	05 Midlands WIB	287,057	42,901	25,452	38,252	18,338	162,114	15%	9%	13%	6%	56%
Workforce Investment Areas	10 Lowcountry WIB	73,156	21,156	10,906	15,148	4,124	21,822	29%	15%	21%	6%	30%
States	South Carolina	1,691,450	308,185	164,388	259,824	94,858	864,194	18%	10%	15%	6%	51%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Quarterly Workforce Indicators (1990-2018), Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program, Beginning of Quarter Employment

Private-Sector Employment by Firm Size Analysis

Employment by Firm Size for South Carolina Geographies in the Fourth Quarter of 2017

Geography Type	Geography Label	All Firm Sizes	0-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-249 Employees	250-499 Employees	500+ Employees	0-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-249 Employees	250-499 Employees	500+ Employees
Counties	Abbeville, SC	4,869	830	367	912	700	2,060	17%	8%	19%	14%	42%
Counties	Aiken, SC	50,244	7,736	3,941	5,534	2,381	30,653	15%	8%	11%	5%	61%
Counties	Allendale, SC	1,939	352	199	274	347	766	18%	10%	14%	18%	40%
Counties	Anderson, SC	54,642	11,313	5,437	8,340	3,898	25,655	21%	10%	15%	7%	47%
Counties	Bamberg, SC	3,048	636	328	799	79	1,206	21%	11%	26%	3%	40%
Counties	Barnwell, SC	5,415	901	368	843	181	3,121	17%	7%	16%	3%	58%
Counties	Beaufort, SC	53,329	15,853	7,345	10,946	2,775	16,410	30%	14%	21%	5%	31%
Counties	Berkeley, SC	48,366	9,129	4,425	7,801	2,695	24,316	19%	9%	16%	6%	50%
Counties	Calhoun, SC	3,530	742	459	566	416	1,346	21%	13%	16%	12%	38%
Counties	Charleston, SC	208,668	39,008	24,623	34,831	10,137	100,070	19%	12%	17%	5%	48%
Counties	Cherokee, SC	18,835	2,747	1,307	1,811	1,439	11,529	15%	7%	10%	8%	61%
Counties	Chester, SC	7,306	1,556	525	1,514	235	3,477	21%	7%	21%	3%	48%
Counties	Chesterfield, SC	13,094	1,677	899	2,029	614	7,875	13%	7%	15%	5%	60%
Counties	Clarendon, SC	4,609	1,575	610	957	251	1,216	34%	13%	21%	5%	26%
Counties	Colleton, SC	8,610	2,277	1,734	1,230	186	3,183	26%	20%	14%	2%	37%
Counties	Darlington, SC	17,653	3,135	1,763	1,987	1,962	8,805	18%	10%	11%	11%	50%
Counties	Dillon, SC	7,025	1,122	430	948	249	4,277	16%	6%	13%	4%	61%
Counties	Dorchester, SC	28,500	7,093	2,963	6,060	1,848	10,536	25%	10%	21%	6%	37%
Counties	Edgefield, SC	3,715	899	602	777	122	1,315	24%	16%	21%	3%	35%
Counties	Fairfield, SC	4,622	709	331	827	436	2,319	15%	7%	18%	9%	50%
Counties	Florence, SC	50,385	9,103	5,046	8,114	2,975	25,147	18%	10%	16%	6%	50%
Counties	Georgetown, SC	17,405	5,509	2,675	4,110	799	4,313	32%	15%	24%	5%	25%
Counties	Greenville, SC	249,206	37,756	21,680	34,261	12,263	143,246	15%	9%	14%	5%	57%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Quarterly Workforce Indicators (1990-2018), Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program, Beginning of Quarter Employment

Private-Sector Employment by Firm Size Analysis

Employment by Firm Size for South Carolina Geographies in the Fourth Quarter of 2017

Geography Type	Geography Label	All Firm Sizes	0-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-249 Employees	250-499 Employees	500+ Employees	0-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-249 Employees	250-499 Employees	500+ Employees
Counties	Greenwood, SC	20,101	3,789	1,789	3,220	1,588	9,715	19%	9%	16%	8%	48%
Counties	Hampton, SC	3,139	860	485	1,085	48	662	27%	15%	35%	2%	21%
Counties	Horry, SC	108,799	27,255	13,535	22,030	3,985	41,994	25%	12%	20%	4%	39%
Counties	Jasper, SC	8,077	2,167	1,342	1,887	1,115	1,566	27%	17%	23%	14%	19%
Counties	Kershaw, SC	13,518	3,330	1,051	2,385	562	6,189	25%	8%	18%	4%	46%
Counties	Lancaster, SC	21,196	4,039	2,044	3,771	633	10,709	19%	10%	18%	3%	51%
Counties	Laurens, SC	18,995	2,239	1,412	2,102	1,061	12,180	12%	7%	11%	6%	64%
Counties	Lee, SC	2,630	723	349	449	88	1,022	27%	13%	17%	3%	39%
Counties	Lexington, SC	105,534	18,372	9,504	14,713	6,056	56,887	17%	9%	14%	6%	54%
Counties	McCormick, SC	828	167	55	124		474	20%	7%	15%	0%	57%
Counties	Marion, SC	6,216	1,243	430	967	340	3,235	20%	7%	16%	5%	52%
Counties	Marlboro, SC	4,850	879	505	669	180	2,617	18%	10%	14%	4%	54%
Counties	Newberry, SC	11,864	2,083	1,000	2,038	674	6,069	18%	8%	17%	6%	51%
Counties	Oconee, SC	19,979	4,266	1,869	2,336	1,279	10,229	21%	9%	12%	6%	51%
Counties	Orangeburg, SC	25,126	4,379	1,804	3,393	1,981	13,568	17%	7%	14%	8%	54%
Counties	Pickens, SC	26,754	5,864	2,704	4,765	1,276	12,145	22%	10%	18%	5%	45%
Counties	Richland, SC	176,901	23,820	15,617	22,712	11,845	102,907	13%	9%	13%	7%	58%
Counties	Saluda, SC	4,009	770	106	544	94	2,496	19%	3%	14%	2%	62%
Counties	Spartanburg, SC	120,394	17,384	9,835	17,979	6,712	68,483	14%	8%	15%	6%	57%
Counties	Sumter, SC	31,645	5,792	2,066	4,312	2,931	16,544	18%	7%	14%	9%	52%
Counties	Union, SC	6,039	936	382	505	129	4,085	15%	6%	8%	2%	68%
Counties	Williamsburg, SC	7,636	1,482	413	1,636	611	3,494	19%	5%	21%	8%	46%
Counties	York, SC	82,204	14,687	8,031	10,730	4,675	44,082	18%	10%	13%	6%	54%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Quarterly Workforce Indicators (1990-2018), Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program, Beginning of Quarter Employment

Private-Sector Employment by Firm Size Analysis

Employment by Firm Size for South Carolina Industry Sectors in the Fourth Quarter of 2017

Industry Code	Industry Sector	All Firm Sizes	0-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-249 Employees	250-499 Employees	500+ Employees	0-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-249 Employees	250-499 Employees	500+ Employees
0	All NAICS Sectors	1,691,450	308,185	164,388	259,824	94,858	864,194	18%	10%	15%	6%	51%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	10,098	4,698	2,037	922	658	1,783	47%	20%	9%	7%	18%
21	Mining, Quarrying Oil and Gas Extraction	1,745	234	174	478	65	794	13%	10%	27%	4%	46%
22	Utilities	12,428	473	470	2,252	269	8,964	4%	4%	18%	2%	72%
23	Construction	99,303	37,157	17,638	18,794	6,027	19,686	37%	18%	19%	6%	20%
31-33	Manufacturing	243,067	15,930	14,006	35,583	16,533	161,015	7%	6%	15%	7%	66%
42	Wholesale Trade	72,707	12,289	7,154	12,788	5,060	35,416	17%	10%	18%	7%	49%
44-45	Retail Trade	243,577	39,145	14,489	20,893	4,974	164,076	16%	6%	9%	2%	67%
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	65,946	7,774	3,221	6,769	2,653	45,530	12%	5%	10%	4%	69%
51	Information	28,423	2,323	1,362	2,604	996	21,137	8%	5%	9%	4%	74%
52	Finance and Insurance	71,264	9,938	2,649	7,245	3,680	47,751	14%	4%	10%	5%	67%
53	Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	28,954	9,880	2,723	5,392	1,562	9,397	34%	9%	19%	5%	32%
54	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	95,489	31,625	10,222	14,273	5,635	33,733	33%	11%	15%	6%	35%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	22,220	837	422	1,613	2,630	16,718	4%	2%	7%	12%	75%
56	Administrative, Support and Waste Management	162,043	20,342	11,260	18,214	9,605	102,622	13%	7%	11%	6%	63%
61	Educational Services	25,394	4,112	3,449	5,885	2,129	9,818	16%	14%	23%	8%	39%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	202,906	35,420	20,760	37,254	15,952	93,520	17%	10%	18%	8%	46%
71	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	28,733	6,530	5,384	9,224	2,558	5,036	23%	19%	32%	9%	18%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	225,097	42,269	39,506	51,885	12,409	79,028	19%	18%	23%	6%	35%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	52,056	27,209	7,462	7,754	1,462	8,169	52%	14%	15%	3%	16%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Quarterly Workforce Indicators (1990-2018), Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program, Beginning of Quarter Employment

About the Data

The Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program is part of the Center for Economic Studies at the U.S. Census Bureau. The LEHD program produces new, cost effective, public-use information combining federal, state and Census Bureau data on employers and employees under the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership. State and local authorities increasingly need detailed local information about their economies to make informed decisions. The LED Partnership works to fill critical data gaps and provide indicators needed by state and local authorities.

Under the LED Partnership, states agree to share Unemployment Insurance earnings data and the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data with the Census Bureau. The LEHD program combines these administrative data, additional administrative data and data from censuses and surveys. From these data, the program creates statistics on employment, earnings, and job flows at detailed levels of geography and industry and for different demographic groups.¹

The Quarterly Workforce Indicator (QWI) that is used in this presentation provides local labor market statistics by industry, worker demographics and firm size. Unlike statistics tabulated from firm or person-level data, the QWI source data are unique job-level data that link workers to their employers. The job frame is comparable to that for the QCEW, though employment counts may vary due to a variety of reasons related to definitions, data sources, methodology, and other factors.²

QWI data elements presented have been distorted to preserve confidentiality. To see more on how the Census Bureau accomplishes these protections, click [here](#). Percentages were computed based on QWI elements presented.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program, <https://lehd.ces.census.gov/>.

² For more information on data definitions, see https://lehd.ces.census.gov/doc/QWI_101.pdf.

Required Language:

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S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce Labor Market Information Department

