

# South Carolina Average Hourly Earnings by Industry

December 2007 to December 2019  
in Current and Real Dollars



About the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW)  
and the Business Intelligence Department (BID) :

BID compiles and publishes employment statistics, job forecasts, wage data, demographics, and other labor market information to help public and private organizations, researchers and others better understand today's complex workforce.

South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce  
1550 Gadsden Street Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
(803) 737-2660  
[www.dew.sc.gov](http://www.dew.sc.gov)  
[www.scworkforceinfo.com](http://www.scworkforceinfo.com)



# Introduction and Findings

## **Introduction**

The topic of stagnant industry wages in the U.S. has been discussed in the media for some time. This presentation highlights the average hourly earnings in South Carolina for several notable industry domains and sectors to show what has been the experience in this state. The information is shown for current (also called nominal) wages as well as for real (also called constant or inflation-adjusted) dollars over the period December 2007 to December 2019. In this presentation, wages means average hourly earnings.

## **The findings:**

- Private industry wages rose in current dollars as well as in real terms over the 12 year period.
- Goods Producing domain wages rose by either measure, including Construction and Manufacturing.
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities as well as Professional and Business Services wages rose in current dollars but fell in real dollars.
- From December 2016 to December 2019, average hourly earnings have increased for all presented industries by either measure, except for a dip in real wages of the Educational and Health Services industry sector.

## S.C. Average Hourly Wage Total Private Industries



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

- Total Private Industry Earnings rose from \$19.03/hr in December 2007 to \$25.47/hr in December 2019 in current dollars.
- Total Private Industry Earnings rose from \$19.03/hr in December 2007 to \$20.82/hr in December 2019 in real or inflation-adjusted dollars.

## S.C. Average Hourly Wage Goods Producing Domain



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

- Goods Producing Domain Earnings rose from \$19.06/hr in December 2007 to \$27.44/hr in December 2019 in current dollars.
- Goods Producing Domain Earnings rose from \$19.06/hr in December 2007 to \$22.43/hr in December 2019 in real or inflation-adjusted dollars.

## S.C. Average Hourly Wage Construction Industry



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

- Construction Industry Earnings rose from \$19.30/hr in December 2007 to \$26.94/hr in December 2019 in current dollars.
- Construction Industry Earnings rose from \$19.30/hr in December 2007 to \$22.02/hr in December 2019 in real or inflation-adjusted dollars.

## S.C. Average Hourly Wage Manufacturing Industry



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

- Manufacturing Industry Earnings rose from \$19.33/hr in December 2007 to \$27.60/hr in December 2019 in current dollars.
- Manufacturing Industry Earnings rose from \$19.33/hr in December 2007 to \$22.56/hr in December 2019 in real or inflation-adjusted dollars.

## S.C. Average Hourly Wage Trade, Transportation, and Utilities Industry



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

- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities Industry Earnings rose from \$18.64/hr in December 2007 to \$22.78/hr in December 2019 in current dollars.
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities Industry Earnings fell from \$18.64/hr in December 2007 to \$18.62/hr in December 2019 in real or inflation-adjusted dollars.

## S.C. Average Hourly Wage Financial Activities Industry



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

- Financial Activities Industry Earnings rose from \$20.30/hr in December 2007 to \$31.20/hr in December 2019 in current dollars.
- Financial Activities Industry Earnings rose from \$20.30/hr in December 2007 to \$25.50/hr in December 2019 in real or inflation-adjusted dollars.

## S.C. Average Hourly Wage Professional and Business Services Industry



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

- Professional and Business Services Industry Earnings rose from \$25.06/hr in December 2007 to \$28.86/hr in December 2019 in current dollars.
- Professional and Business Services Industry Earnings fell from \$25.06/hr in December 2007 to \$23.59/hr in December 2019 in real or inflation-adjusted dollars.

## S.C. Average Hourly Wage Education and Health Services Industry



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

- Education and Health Services Industry Earnings rose from \$19.16/hr in December 2007 to \$26.81/hr in December 2019 in current dollars.
- Education and Health Services Industry Earnings rose from \$19.16/hr in December 2007 to \$21.91/hr in December 2019 in real or inflation-adjusted dollars.

## S.C. Average Hourly Wage Leisure and Hospitality Industry



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

- Leisure and Hospitality Industry Earnings rose from \$10.64/hr in December 2007 to \$14.14/hr in December 2019 in current dollars.
- Leisure and Hospitality Industry Earnings rose from \$10.64/hr in December 2007 to \$11.56/hr in December 2019 in real or inflation-adjusted dollars.

## S.C. Average Hourly Wage Other Services Industry



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

- Other Services Industry Earnings rose from \$16.45/hr in December 2007 to \$24.60/hr in December 2019 in current dollars.
- Other Services Industry Earnings rose from \$16.45/hr in December 2007 to \$20.11/hr in December 2019 in real or inflation-adjusted dollars.

# Data Table

S.C. Average Hourly Wage by Industry in Current and Real Dollars, December Figures

Date	Current Dollars										Real Dollars (December 2007=100)									
	Total Private	Goods Producing	Construction	Manufacturing	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	Financial Activities	Professional and Business Services	Education and Health Services	Leisure and Hospitality	Other Services	Total Private	Goods Producing	Construction	Manufacturing	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	Financial Activities	Professional and Business Services	Education and Health Services	Leisure and Hospitality	Other Services
December 2007	\$19.03	\$19.06	\$19.30	\$19.33	\$18.64	\$20.30	\$25.06	\$19.16	\$10.64	\$16.45	\$19.03	\$19.06	\$19.30	\$19.33	\$18.64	\$20.30	\$25.06	\$19.16	\$10.64	\$16.45
December 2008	\$19.25	\$20.19	\$21.35	\$19.50	\$17.46	\$22.44	\$23.20	\$20.42	\$10.90	\$16.89	\$19.23	\$20.17	\$21.33	\$19.48	\$17.44	\$22.42	\$23.18	\$20.40	\$10.89	\$16.87
December 2009	\$19.77	\$20.70	\$21.39	\$20.21	\$17.76	\$22.26	\$23.49	\$22.90	\$11.11	\$16.04	\$19.23	\$20.13	\$20.80	\$19.66	\$17.27	\$21.65	\$22.85	\$22.27	\$10.81	\$15.60
December 2010	\$20.54	\$21.29	\$21.12	\$21.29	\$18.43	\$25.37	\$21.62	\$23.93	\$11.87	\$17.25	\$19.68	\$20.40	\$20.24	\$20.40	\$17.66	\$24.31	\$20.72	\$22.93	\$11.37	\$16.53
December 2011	\$20.29	\$21.01	\$21.41	\$20.83	\$17.90	\$22.30	\$22.36	\$24.02	\$12.05	\$18.16	\$18.88	\$19.55	\$19.93	\$19.39	\$16.66	\$20.75	\$20.81	\$22.36	\$11.22	\$16.90
December 2012	\$20.37	\$21.13	\$20.16	\$21.48	\$18.88	\$23.05	\$23.50	\$23.05	\$11.35	\$17.28	\$18.63	\$19.33	\$18.44	\$19.65	\$17.27	\$21.09	\$21.50	\$21.09	\$10.38	\$15.81
December 2013	\$21.05	\$22.24	\$20.20	\$23.00	\$19.92	\$21.32	\$23.54	\$24.14	\$11.77	\$16.25	\$18.97	\$20.04	\$18.21	\$20.73	\$17.95	\$19.21	\$21.22	\$21.76	\$10.61	\$14.65
December 2014	\$21.39	\$22.85	\$20.74	\$23.75	\$19.57	\$24.11	\$22.75	\$25.94	\$11.87	\$15.65	\$19.13	\$20.44	\$18.55	\$21.24	\$17.51	\$21.57	\$20.35	\$23.20	\$10.62	\$14.00
December 2015	\$21.67	\$23.37	\$21.65	\$24.25	\$20.31	\$25.07	\$22.35	\$26.32	\$12.40	\$16.70	\$19.24	\$20.75	\$19.23	\$21.53	\$18.04	\$22.26	\$19.85	\$23.37	\$11.01	\$14.83
December 2016	\$22.46	\$24.27	\$22.76	\$24.99	\$20.57	\$26.04	\$24.05	\$26.00	\$12.64	\$19.69	\$19.54	\$21.11	\$19.80	\$21.74	\$17.90	\$22.65	\$20.92	\$22.62	\$11.00	\$17.13
December 2017	\$23.21	\$24.64	\$23.94	\$24.91	\$21.05	\$27.04	\$25.88	\$26.65	\$12.82	\$22.35	\$19.77	\$20.99	\$20.40	\$21.22	\$17.93	\$23.04	\$22.05	\$22.71	\$10.92	\$19.04
December 2018	\$24.51	\$26.78	\$25.54	\$27.25	\$22.23	\$29.06	\$26.68	\$26.14	\$13.63	\$24.90	\$20.49	\$22.39	\$21.35	\$22.78	\$18.58	\$24.29	\$22.31	\$21.85	\$11.39	\$20.82
December 2019	\$25.47	\$27.44	\$26.94	\$27.60	\$22.78	\$31.20	\$28.86	\$26.81	\$14.14	\$24.60	\$20.82	\$22.43	\$22.02	\$22.56	\$18.62	\$25.50	\$23.59	\$21.91	\$11.56	\$20.11

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

# Data Notes

- **S.C. Current Employment Statistics (CES) Average Hourly Earnings from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Not Seasonally Adjusted, All Employee Average Hourly Earnings):**
  - CES average earnings are a measure of gross payrolls divided by total hours paid during the pay period that includes the 12th day of the month. Earnings are the return to an employee for a stated period in average in an industry. Average hourly earnings do not represent employers total compensation costs because they exclude items such as employee benefits, irregular bonuses and commissions, retroactive payments and the employer's share of payroll taxes.
  - Series IDs: SMU450000005000000003, SMU450000006000000003, SMU450000020000000003, SMU450000030000000003, SMU450000040000000003, SMU450000055000000003, SMU450000060000000003, SMU450000065000000003, SMU450000070000000003, SMU450000080000000003
  - December 2019 data is preliminary
  - Data extracted on January 31, 2020
  - Website: <https://www.bls.gov/sae/data.htm>

# Data Notes

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics – used to convert current dollars into real or inflation-adjusted dollars.**
  - Series ID: CUUR0000SA0, U.S. City Average, All Items, Not Seasonally Adjusted, Base Period 1982-84=100, Reindexed to December 2007=100 for real dollar calculations.
  - Data extracted on January 31, 2020
  - Website: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm>
- **Definitions**
  - Current dollars is a term describing income in the year in which a person, household or family receives it. For example, the income someone received in 1989 unadjusted for inflation is in current dollars.
  - Constant or real dollars are terms describing income after adjustment for inflation.

<https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/income/guidance/current-vs-constant-dollars.html>

## Required Language

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information in linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.

The Federal Government reserves a paid-up, nonexclusive and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish or otherwise use and to authorize others to use for federal purposes:

i) the copyright in all products developed under the grant, including a subgrant or contract under the grant or subgrant; and ii) any rights of copyright to which the recipient, subrecipient or a contractor purchases ownership under an award (including but not limited to curricula, training models, technical assistance products and any related materials). Such uses include, but are not limited to, the right to modify and distribute such products worldwide by any means, electronically or otherwise. Federal funds may not be used to pay any royalty or license fee for use of a copyrighted work or the cost of acquiring by purchase a copyright in a work, where the department has a license or rights of free use in such work, although they may be used to pay costs for obtaining a copy which is limited to the developer/seller costs of copying and shipping. If revenues are generated through selling products developed with grant funds, including intellectual property, these revenues are program income. Program income must be used in accordance with the provisions of this grant award and 2 CFR 200.307.