

North Carolina ranks 4th in the South in the proportion of its 2020 jobs requiring a bachelor's degree, 6th in the jobs that will require a graduate degree, and 9th in jobs for high school dropouts.

South Carolina > Polarized opportunity > Government jobs

South Carolina's unemployment rate during the recession hovered at just over 8 percent in 2010, and it peaked at 11.8 percent in November and December of 2009.

Total real GDP declined to \$141.4 billion between 2008 and 2009, and though it climbed to \$145.1 billion in 2010, it has yet to regain its pre-recession level. South Carolina's 2010 per capita real GDP, at \$31,400, was the third-lowest in the South. State economic growth between 2009 and 2010 was on par with the national average. There is some good news for the state: annual exports increased by 23.2 percent in 2010 to \$20.3 billion.⁵⁵

Industry in South Carolina

Contributions to South Carolina's real GDP in 2009 were led by four sectors: financial services (17.1%), government and public education services (16.6%), manufacturing (15.6%) and wholesale and retail trade services (14.6%). The largest employers, however, are government and public education services (19.1%), wholesale and retail trade services (15.3%), manufacturing (11.8%), and professional and business services (11.7%).

The largest employers reflect these sectors' dominant role in the workforce as well as the growing importance of healthcare to the state economy. As of 2010, three of the ten largest employers in the state were part of the healthcare sector, namely Palmetto Health, Greenville Hospital System, and BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina. Top private employers included BI-LO grocery stores and Wal-Mart. In addition, the School District of Greenville, the University of South Carolina, the U.S. Postal Service, and the Department of Defense employed large shares of workers.

Occupations in South Carolina

Over 70 percent of the jobs held by South Carolinians in 2008 were in the blue collar (27%), sales and office support (27%), and food and personal services (18%) clusters. Mainly because of their large size, these three sectors expect the least employment growth by 2020; blue-collar jobs are likely to grow by only 10 percent. But jobs in healthcare are expected to grow by 22 percent, while STEM positions will grow by 18 percent by 2020.

Among the employers of the state's many blue-collar workers are Michelin's North America manufacturing headquarters and factories, making Michelin one of the state's top-ten employers as of 2010. South Carolina has also attracted several auto industry giants; it is now home to BMW's only assembly plant in North America, a Daimler AG assembly plant, and

55. Global Trade Information Services, Inc., and South Carolina Economic Outlook. South Carolina Department of Commerce. Volume 4, Issue 2. Feb. 2011.

American LaFrance's new corporate headquarters and commercial vehicle manufacturing plant, as well as more than 200 suppliers.⁵⁶

South Carolina is also home to technology-focused companies such as Lockheed Martin, General Electric, Honeywell, and 3D Systems, plus firms in the renewable energy industry like Rollcast Energy. Inc.com, in its 2010 listing of the nation's fastest-growing companies, listed 25 headquartered in South Carolina. M33 Integrated Solutions is one of many growing companies applying new technology to more traditional industrial operations such as transportation.

56% OF JOBS IN SOUTH CAROLINA WILL REQUIRE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN 2020 (DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM 57% IN 2010)

Table 11: Snapshot of Education Demand for Total Jobs in South Carolina (2010 And 2020)

	2010	2020	% in 2020
High school or less	847,600	1,024,100	44%
Some college	432,600	510,900	22%
Associate's	185,400	218,900	9%
Bachelor's	340,100	401,600	17%
Graduate	156,900	162,100	7%
Total	1,962,600	2,317,600	100%

In 2020, 56 percent of all South Carolina jobs will require some postsecondary training.

During the same period, the state will add 702,600 job vacancies both from new job opportunities and from vacancies arising from retirement. Of these vacancies, 392,100 will favor candidates with postsecondary qualifications; 310,500, high school graduates and high school dropouts.

South Carolina ranks 9th in the South in the proportion of its 2020 jobs requiring a bachelor's degree, 12th in the proportion requiring a graduate degree, and 5th in jobs for high school dropouts.

Georgia Diversified economy > Trade-based Magnet State

Georgia's unemployment rate peaked at 10.4 percent during the winters of 2009 and 2010. Its real GDP, at \$362 billion, shows some improvement from 2009 lows.

Industry in Georgia

Georgia is the nation's ninth-largest state and has the seventh-fastest-growing population in the region.⁵⁷ Furthermore, its economy is well-diversified; in 2010, its real GDP was spread

56. The advanced material sector caters to and supports the auto manufacturing industry, offering research and development at the Clemson International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR). Source: South Carolina Key Performance Indicators 2009
 57. <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>