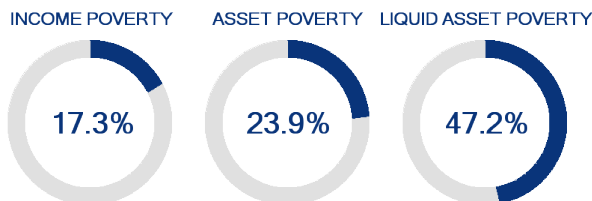


# STATE PROFILE: SOUTH CAROLINA



The recession's lingering effects have taken an enormous toll on South Carolina families. Fully 17.3% of state residents live in poverty and far more are financially vulnerable. The 2013 *Assets & Opportunity Scorecard* found that 47.2% of South Carolina households are liquid asset poor, which means that they have less than three months of savings to fall back on in the event of a job loss, health crisis or other income-disrupting emergency. Additionally, 23.9% are asset poor, meaning that the assets that they do have—whether a savings account or durable assets such as a home, business or car—are overwhelmed by debt.



Asset poverty in South Carolina is 1.4 times higher than income poverty and liquid asset poverty is 2.7 times higher.

## WHAT SOUTH CAROLINA CAN DO

- **Strengthen K-12 Education:** To increase math and reading proficiency and high school graduation rates, South Carolina should increase K-12 education funding in high-poverty school districts and implement a stronger system for teacher evaluation and retention.
- **Increase Incomes, Savings and Investment:** To reduce income poverty and increase net worth, South Carolina should adopt a state Earned Income Tax Credit; remove the disincentive to save for very-low-income families by lifting asset limits in its cash welfare and Medicaid programs; and fund a state Individual Development Account program to help families to purchase a home, business or college education.
- **Protect Consumers in the Financial Marketplace:** To protect unbanked and underbanked households from predatory products and improve credit scores, South Carolina should ensure residents have access to fair financial products by regulating payday, car-title and short-term installment loans.

## ABOUT THE SCORECARD

The *Assets & Opportunity Scorecard* is a comprehensive look at Americans' financial security today and their opportunities to create a more prosperous future. It assesses the 50 states and the District of Columbia on 102 outcome and policy measures, which describe how well residents are faring and what states can do to help them build and protect assets. These measures are grouped into five issue areas: Financial Assets & Income, Businesses & Jobs, Housing & Homeownership, Health Care, and Education.

For a complete description of *Scorecard* measures and sources, including how the grades and rankings were assigned, go to <http://scorecard.cfed.org>.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

# 64%

of South Carolina consumers have subprime credit

# 47%

of South Carolina households live in liquid asset poverty

# 29%

of jobs in South Carolina are low-wage jobs

# 34%

of homeowners in South Carolina are cost burdened

# 19%

of people in South Carolina are uninsured

# 24%

of adults in South Carolina have at least a 4-year college degree

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## SOUTH CAROLINA

OVERALL RANK: 48

The *Scorecard* ranks 53 outcome measures from best to worst; #1 is the most desirable, #51 is the least desirable. Data for an additional 16 measures are published, but states are not ranked on these measures due to insufficient data at the state level. Issue area ranks and grades are calculated by averaging the ranks of measures within the issue area. Grades for issue areas are given on a curve: 10 states get As, 10 get Bs, 16 get Cs, 10 get Ds and 5 get Fs. The overall rank is calculated by ranking the sum of the issue area ranks.

## FINANCIAL ASSETS &amp; INCOME

ISSUE AREA RANK: 38 | GRADE: D

OUTCOME MEASURE	State Data	U.S. Data	STATE RANK
Income Poverty Rate	17.3%	14.6%	43
Asset Poverty Rate	23.9%	26.0%	—
Asset Poverty by Race	3.5 x higher for HHs of color	2.1 x higher for HHs of color	—
Asset Poverty by Gender	1.6 x higher for single women	1.1 x higher for single women	—
Asset Poverty by Family Structure	—	2.2 x higher for 1-parent HHs	—
Liquid Asset Poverty Rate	47.2%	43.9%	29
Liquid Asset Poverty by Race	2.1 x higher for HHs of color	1.8 x higher for HHs of color	—
Liquid Asset Poverty by Gender	1.38 x higher for single women	1.09 x higher for single women	—
Liquid Asset Poverty by Family Structure	—	1.9 x higher for 1-parent HHs	—
Extreme Asset Poverty Rate	12.8%	17.5%	—
Net Worth	\$70,441	\$68,948	—
Net Worth by Race	—	10.3 x higher for white HHs	—
Net Worth by Income	—	68 x higher for top 20%	—
Net Worth by Gender	—	1.18 x higher for single men	—
Net Worth by Family Structure	—	22 x higher for 2-parent HHs	—
Unbanked Households	9.3%	8.2%	35
Underbanked Households	20.6%	20.1%	32
Households with Savings Accounts	62.9%	69.2%	41
Consumers with Subprime Credit	63.7%	56.4%	45
Borrowers 90+ Days Overdue	5.16%	4.33%	47
Average Credit Card Debt	\$9,627	\$10,736	23
Bankruptcy Rate (per 1,000 people)	1.6	4.4	3

## BUSINESSES &amp; JOBS

ISSUE AREA RANK: 50 | GRADE: F

OUTCOME MEASURE	State Data	U.S. Data	STATE RANK
Microenterprise Ownership Rate	15.9%	16.7%	29
Small Business Ownership Rate	1.36%	1.34%	37
Business Ownership by Race	2.5 x higher for white workers	1.5 x higher for white workers	49
Business Ownership by Gender	1.5 x higher for men	1.3 x higher for men	48
Business Value by Race	3.5 x higher for white bus. owners	2.6 x higher for white bus. owners	45
Business Value by Gender	2.8 x higher for men	2.6 x higher for men	33
Business Creation Rate (per 1,000 workers)	7.8	9.2	38
Private Loans to Small Business	\$1,079	\$1,148	34
Unemployment Rate	10.5%	8.9%	46
Unemployment by Race	2 x higher for people of color	1.7 x higher for people of color	33
Underemployment Rate	18.2%	15.9%	47
Low-Wage Jobs	28.6%	21.5%	43
Average Annual Pay	\$41,678	\$48,043	44
Retirement Plan Participation	45.5%	44.6%	34
Employers Offering Health Insurance	49.2%	51.0%	26

## HOUSING &amp; HOMEOWNERSHIP

ISSUE AREA RANK: 30 | GRADE: C

OUTCOME MEASURE	State Data	U.S. Data	STATE RANK
Homeownership Rate	69.2%	64.6%	15
Homeownership by Race	1.5 x higher for white HHS	1.6 x higher for white HHS	24
Homeownership by Income	2 x higher for top 20%	2.2 x higher for top 20%	11
Homeownership by Gender	1 x higher for single men	1.01 x higher for single women	—
Homeownership by Family Structure	2 x higher for 2-parent HHS	1.9 x higher for 2-parent HHS	38
Foreclosure Rate	4.33%	4.27%	40
Delinquent Mortgage Loans	2.54%	3.04%	22
High-Cost Mortgage Loans	2.38%	2.47%	33
Affordability of Homes (value/income)	3.2 x higher than median income	3.4 x higher than median income	19
Housing Cost Burden - Homeowners	34.2%	36.9%	25
Housing Cost Burden - Renters	54.2%	53.4%	40

## HEALTH CARE

ISSUE AREA RANK: 40 | GRADE: D

OUTCOME MEASURE	State Data	U.S. Data	STATE RANK
Uninsured Rate	19.4%	17.3%	38
Uninsured by Race	1.6 x higher for people of color	2 x higher for people of color	11
Uninsured by Income	3.5 x higher for poorest 20%	3.5 x higher for poorest 20%	28
Uninsured by Gender	1.2 x higher for men	1.2 x higher for men	24
Uninsured Low-Income Children	11.4%	10.7%	38
Uninsured Low-Income Parents	36.0%	34.5%	31
Employer-Provided Insurance Coverage	53.6%	57.4%	38
Employee Share of Premium	31.1%	26.4%	45
Out-of-Pocket Medical Expenses	22.0%	16.2%	—

## EDUCATION

ISSUE AREA RANK: 42 | GRADE: D

OUTCOME MEASURE	State Data	U.S. Data	STATE RANK
Early Childhood Education Enrollment	32.9%	28.2%	14
Math Proficiency - 8th Grade	31.8%	34.7%	32
Reading Proficiency - 8th Grade	26.6%	33.5%	41
High School Degree	84.2%	85.9%	42
Two-Year College Degree	32.6%	36.3%	40
Four-Year College Degree	24.1%	28.5%	41
Four-Year Degree by Race	2 x higher for white adults	1.6 x higher for white adults	44
Four-Year Degree by Income	5.5 x higher for top 20%	4.6 x higher for top 20%	41
Four-Year Degree by Gender	1.01 x higher for men	1.01 x higher for men	—
Average College Graduate Debt	\$25,662	\$26,600	29
College Graduates with Debt	54%	66%	12
Student Loan Default Rate	10.2%	13.4%	16

For a complete description of *Scorecard* measures and sources, including how the grades and ratings were assigned, go to <http://scorecard.cfed.org>.

— = "Not Available." Data or ranks are not available because insufficient or unreliable data exist for the state.

N.R. = "Not Ranked." These data are not ranked because the estimate or rank is too imprecise to say with confidence how the state compares to other states.





## POLICY RATINGS

The *Scorecard* includes 33 policy measures: 12 priority policies and 21 additional policies. For policy priorities, states are assessed against criteria for what constitutes a strong policy. Taken together, these policies provide a comprehensive view of what states can do to help residents build and protect assets. Policy priority data are current as of September 2012; additional policy data are drawn from the latest published reports, usually 2011-2012.

-  Very strong policy
-  Strong policy, but some room for improvement
-  Some policy, but much room for improvement
-  Minimal policy in place
-  No policy in place

## FINANCIAL ASSETS & INCOME

### Policy Priorities

-  Tax Credits for Working Families
-  State IDA Program Support
-  Lifting Asset Limits in Public Benefit Programs
-  Protections from Predatory Short-Term Loans

### Additional Policies

- Income Tax Threshold** ... \$26,100
- Tax Burden by Income** ... The poorest 20% of families pay 1.4 times more of their income in taxes than the top 1% of families
- Prize-Linked Savings** ... Prize-linked savings not allowed
- Paperless Payday** ... Paperless payday permitted

## BUSINESSES & JOBS

### Policy Priorities



-  State Support for Microenterprise
-  Job Quality Standards

### Additional Policies

- Unemployment Benefit Level** ... 32.5% of average weekly wage
- Unemployment Benefit Eligibility** ... Uses alternative base period; Part-time workers covered; Benefits for compelling family reasons
- Incentives for Employee Ownership** ... No state policy
- Loans for Beginning Farmers** ... No state policy

## HOUSING & HOMEOWNERSHIP

### Policy Priorities

-  Foreclosure Prevention and Protections
-  First-Time Homebuyer Assistance

### Additional Policies

- Housing Trust Funds** ... Has statewide housing trust fund
- Preservation of Affordable Rental Housing** ... 10.0% of LIHTC for preservation
- Tenant Protections from Foreclosure** ... No protections beyond federal law
- Property Tax Relief** ... None
- Resident Ownership of Manufactured Housing Communities** ... No protections for homeowners

## HEALTH CARE

### Policy Priorities




-  Access to Health Insurance

### Additional Policies

- Expanded COBRA Coverage** ... COBRA expansion for 6 months
- Healthcare Information Databases** ... Does not have database

## EDUCATION

### Policy Priorities

-  Access to Quality K-12 Education
-  Financial Education in Schools
-  College Savings Incentives

### Additional Policies

- State-Funded Head Start** ... No state supplement
- Quality of State Pre-K Programs** ... Established state program; \$2,934 per child enrolled; 6.7 of 10 quality standards met
- Kindergarten Standards** ... Full Day Kindergarten; separate standards; no certificates or training required for teachers
- State Financial Aid for Postsecondary Education** ... \$1,719 per student; 19% need-based
- TANF-Funded Workforce Training** ... 9.43% of funds spent on training
- WIA-Funded Workforce Training** ... 53.3% of participants received training