

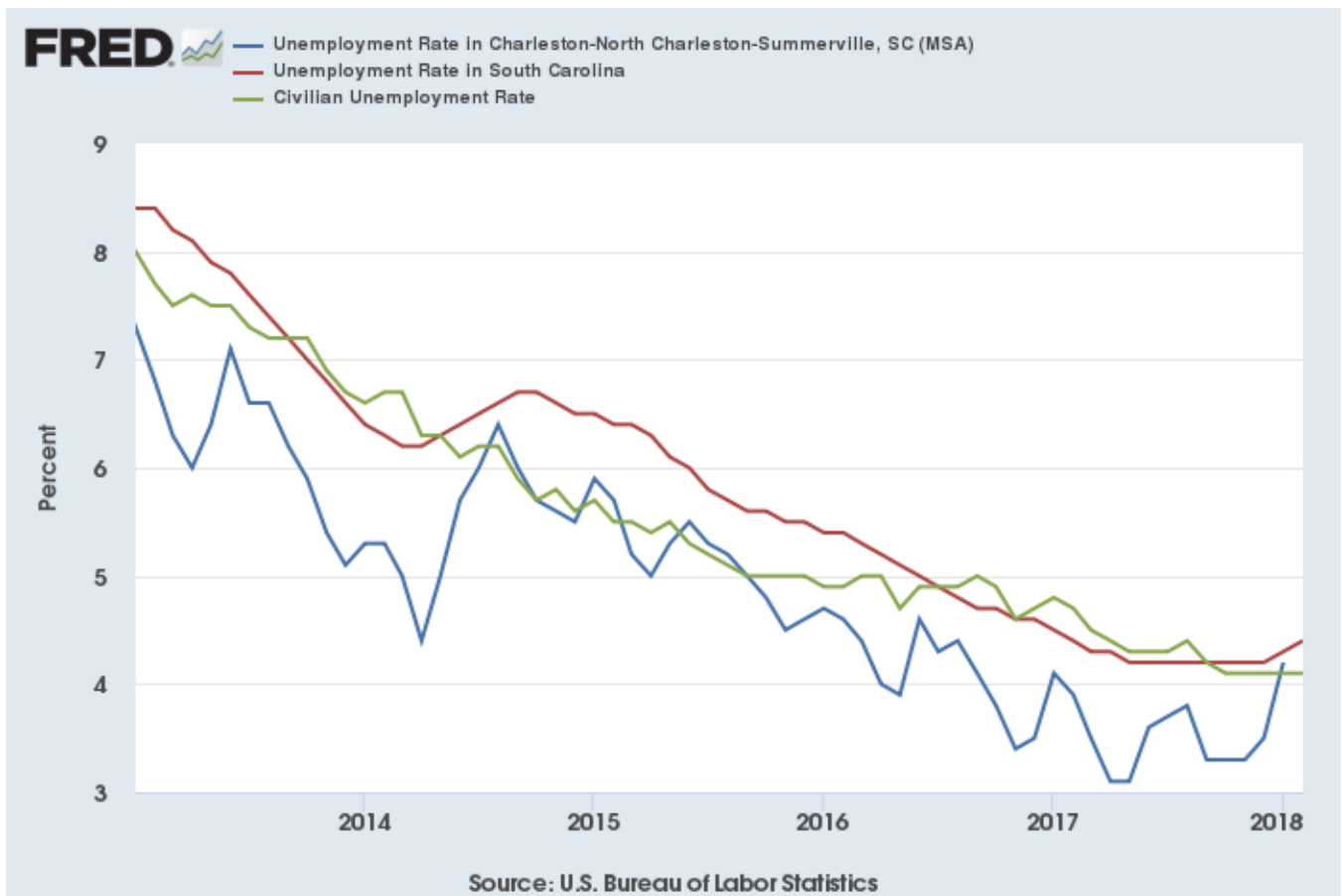
Charleston Metro Economy Update

March 29, 2018

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Unemployment

As illustrated by the graph below, the unemployment rate for the Nation (civilian unemployment rate), the Charleston Metro Region, and the State of South Carolina have all decreased significantly over the last five years. Over the winter months, unemployment for the Nation and the State of South Carolina remained relatively flat, while the Charleston Metro Region experienced a spike in the unemployment rate from 3.5% in December to 4.2% in January. As of month-end January 2018, the civilian unemployment rate was reported to be 4.1%, the State unemployment rate was reported to be 4.3%, and the Charleston Metro Region unemployment rate was reported to be 4.2%.



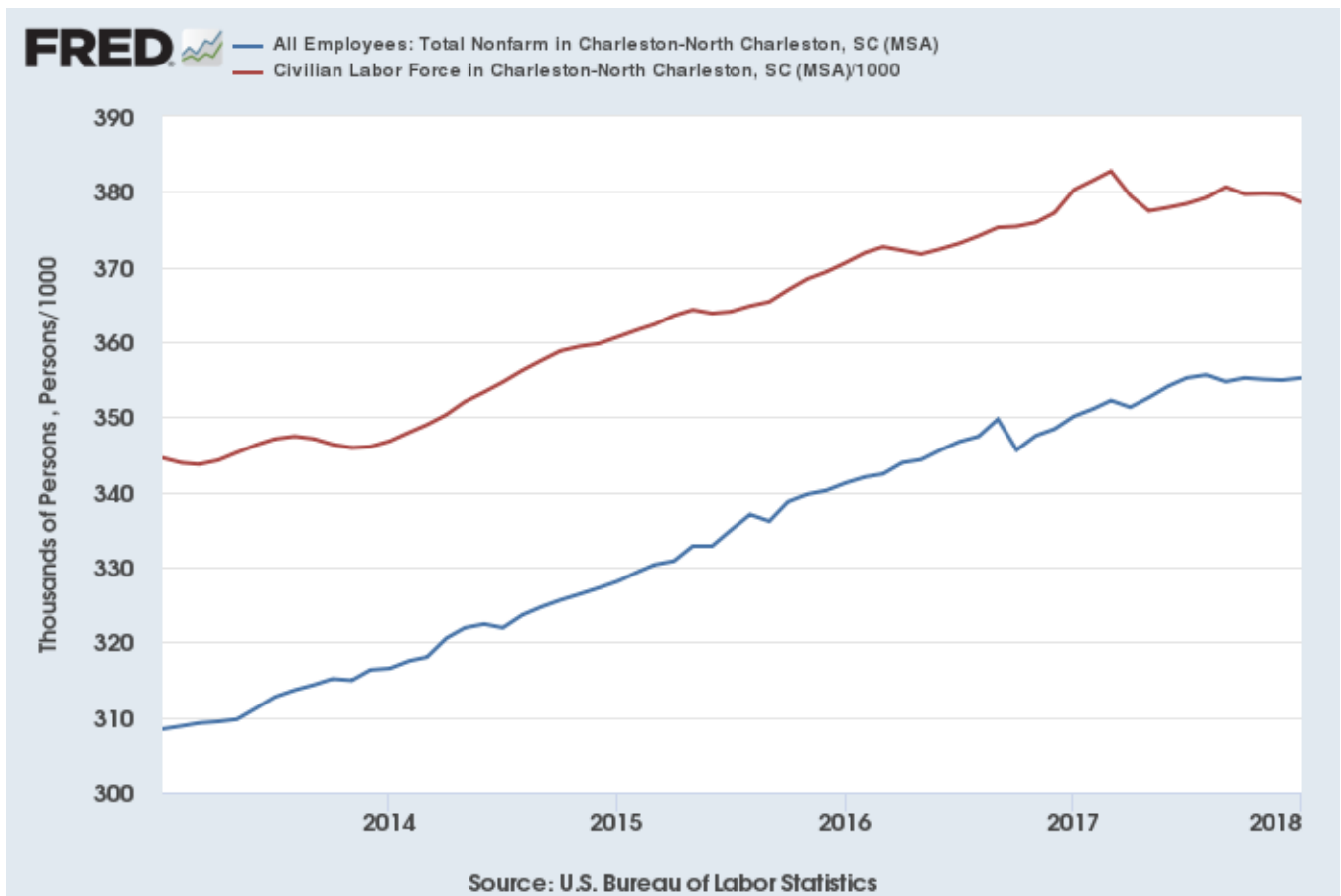
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Seasonally Adjusted Data

Date	Metro (%)	SC (%)	US (%)
2015-01-01	5.7	6.5	5.7
2015-02-01	5.6	6.5	5.5
2015-03-01	5.5	6.4	5.5
2015-04-01	5.5	6.3	5.4
2015-05-01	5.4	6.1	5.5
2015-06-01	5.1	5.9	5.3
2015-07-01	4.9	5.7	5.3
2015-08-01	4.8	5.6	5.1
2015-09-01	4.8	5.5	5.1
2015-10-01	4.8	5.5	5.0
2015-11-01	4.7	5.5	5.0
2015-12-01	4.7	5.5	5.0
2016-01-01	4.7	5.5	4.9
2016-02-01	4.7	5.5	4.9
2016-03-01	5.0	5.7	5.0
2016-04-01	5.1	5.8	5.0
2016-05-01	4.5	5.6	4.7
2016-06-01	4.4	5.4	4.9
2016-07-01	4.3	5.2	4.9
2016-08-01	4.3	5.1	4.9
2016-09-01	4.2	4.9	4.9
2016-10-01	3.9	4.7	4.8
2016-11-01	3.4	4.4	4.6
2016-12-01	3.5	4.3	4.7
2017-01-01	4.1	4.4	4.8
2017-02-01	3.9	4.4	4.7
2017-03-01	3.5	4.4	4.5
2017-04-01	3.1	4.3	4.4
2017-05-01	3.1	4.1	4.3
2017-06-01	3.6	4.0	4.4
2017-07-01	3.7	4.2	4.3
2017-08-01	3.8	4.2	4.4
2017-09-01	3.3	4.2	4.2
2017-10-01	3.3	4.2	4.1
2017-11-01	3.3	4.2	4.1
2017-12-01	3.5	4.2	4.1
2018-01-01	4.2	4.3	4.1

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

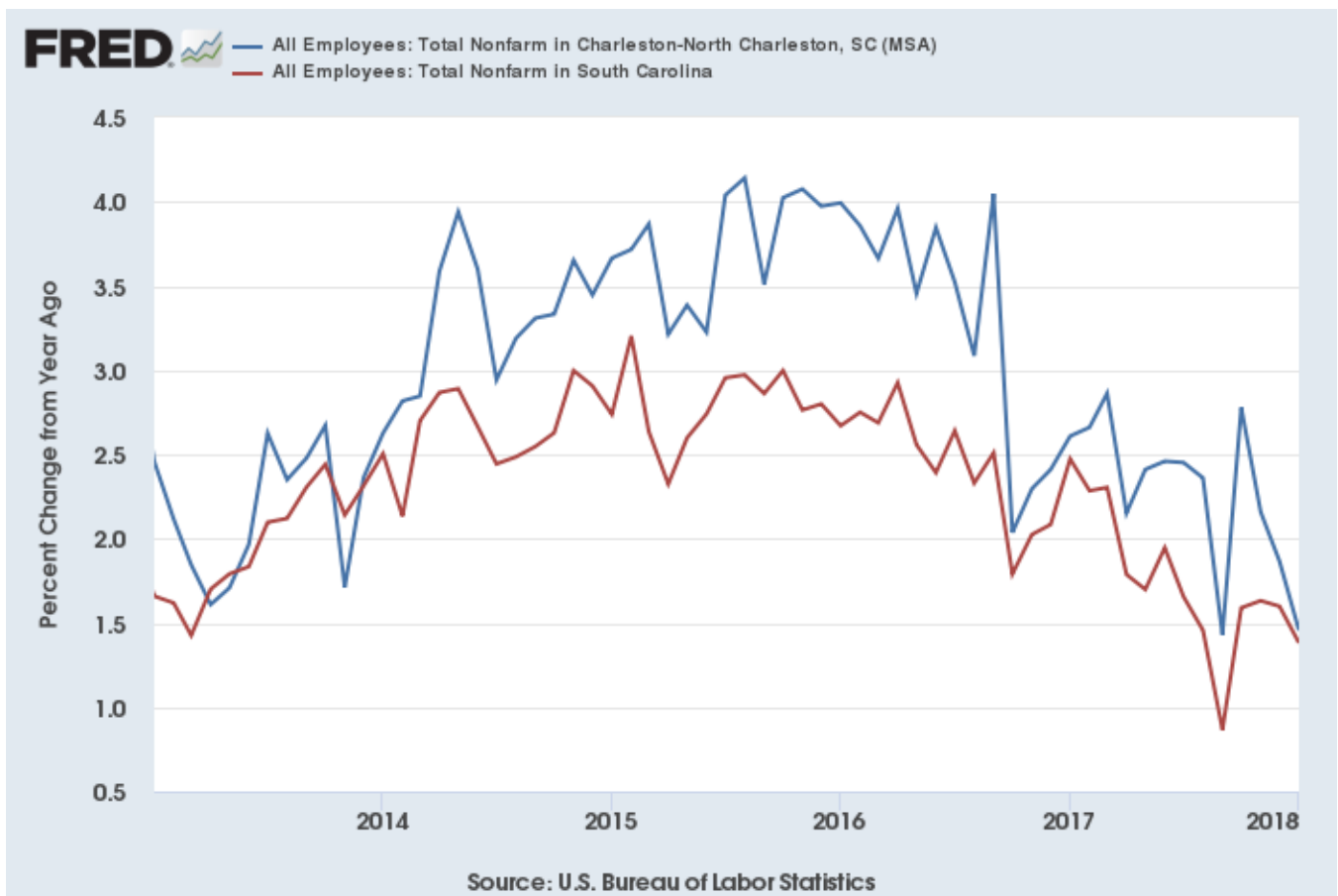
Job Growth

The Charleston Metro Region has seen steady job growth over the last five years, with both total nonfarm employees and the civilian labor force having grown 15.17% and 9.8% respectively, since January of 2013. Both total non-farm employees and the civilian labor force in the Charleston Metro Region are highly positively correlated. In recent months, both have remained relatively flat, with the civilian labor force decreasing marginally.



Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Seasonally Adjusted Data

In comparison to the total non-farm employees in the State, the total non-farm employees in the Charleston Metro Region has tracked its movement for the last five years, suggesting a positive relationship between the two, but with the Charleston Metro Region having almost always performed better than the State as a whole. Beginning in 2008, the percent change in both of these metrics fell to sharp lows of -5% and -6%, before breaking even again in 2010. Both metrics have since remained at/around their pre-recessionary values, but have experienced a slowdown in year/year growth since mid-2016. However, the Charleston Metro Region continues to outperform the State in terms of year/year growth in the labor force. Most recently in January, total non-farm employees in the Charleston Metro Region was up 1.45% from the year before, while total non-farm employees in the State up was up 1.38% from the year prior.

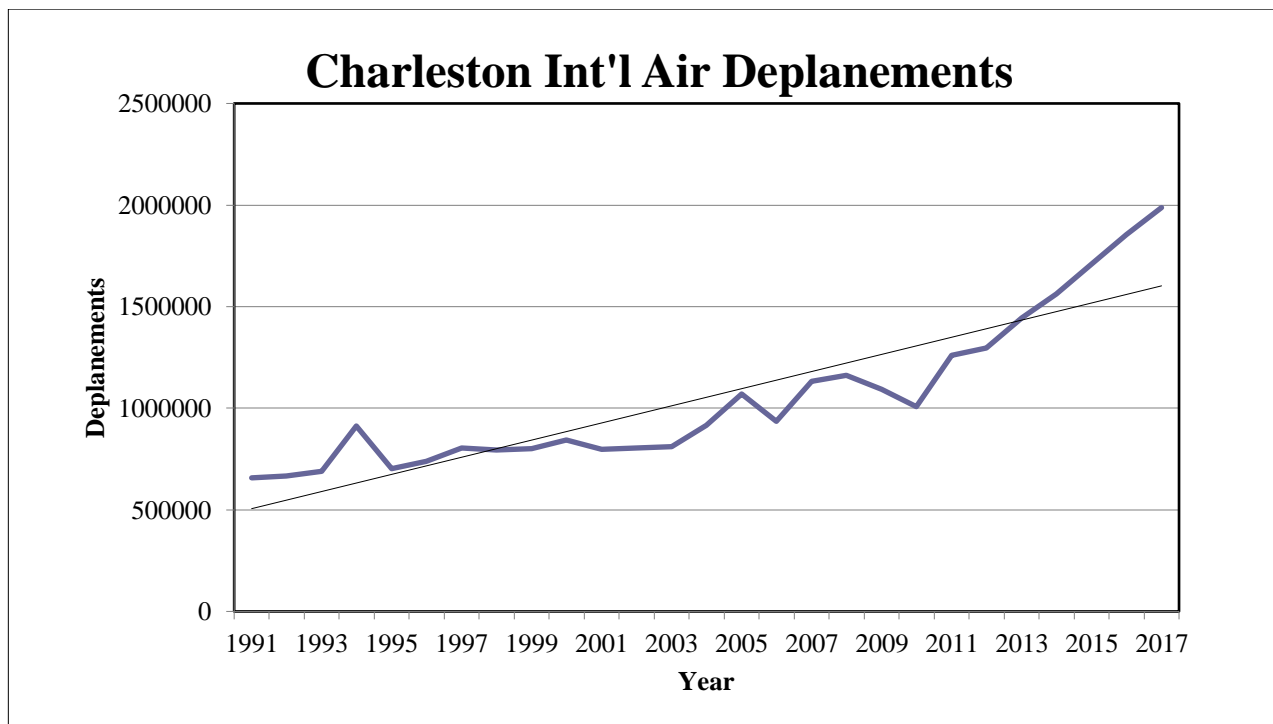


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Date	Metro (%)	SC (%)
2015-01-01	3.7	2.8
2015-02-01	3.8	3.3
2015-03-01	3.9	2.6
2015-04-01	3.3	2.2
2015-05-01	3.2	2.5
2015-06-01	3.1	2.5
2015-07-01	3.8	2.9
2015-08-01	3.7	2.9
2015-09-01	3.5	2.8
2015-10-01	3.0	2.7
2015-11-01	3.3	2.5
2015-12-01	3.1	2.8
2016-01-01	3.3	2.4
2016-02-01	2.3	2.0
2016-03-01	2.6	2.6
2016-04-01	2.1	2.6
2016-05-01	2.5	2.5
2016-06-01	3.1	2.6
2016-07-01	3.1	2.4
2016-08-01	2.7	2.5
2016-09-01	3.5	2.8
2016-10-01	3.2	1.9
2016-11-01	3.2	2.2
2016-12-01	3.1	1.8
2017-01-01	2.9	2.0
2017-02-01	3.0	1.6
2017-03-01	3.3	1.6
2017-04-01	1.9	1.3
2017-05-01	2.1	1.5
2017-06-01	1.9	1.7
2017-07-01	2.5	1.6
2017-08-01	2.4	1.5
2017-09-01	1.4	0.9
2017-10-01	2.8	1.6
2017-11-01	2.2	1.6
2017-12-01	1.9	1.6
2018-01-01	1.5	1.4

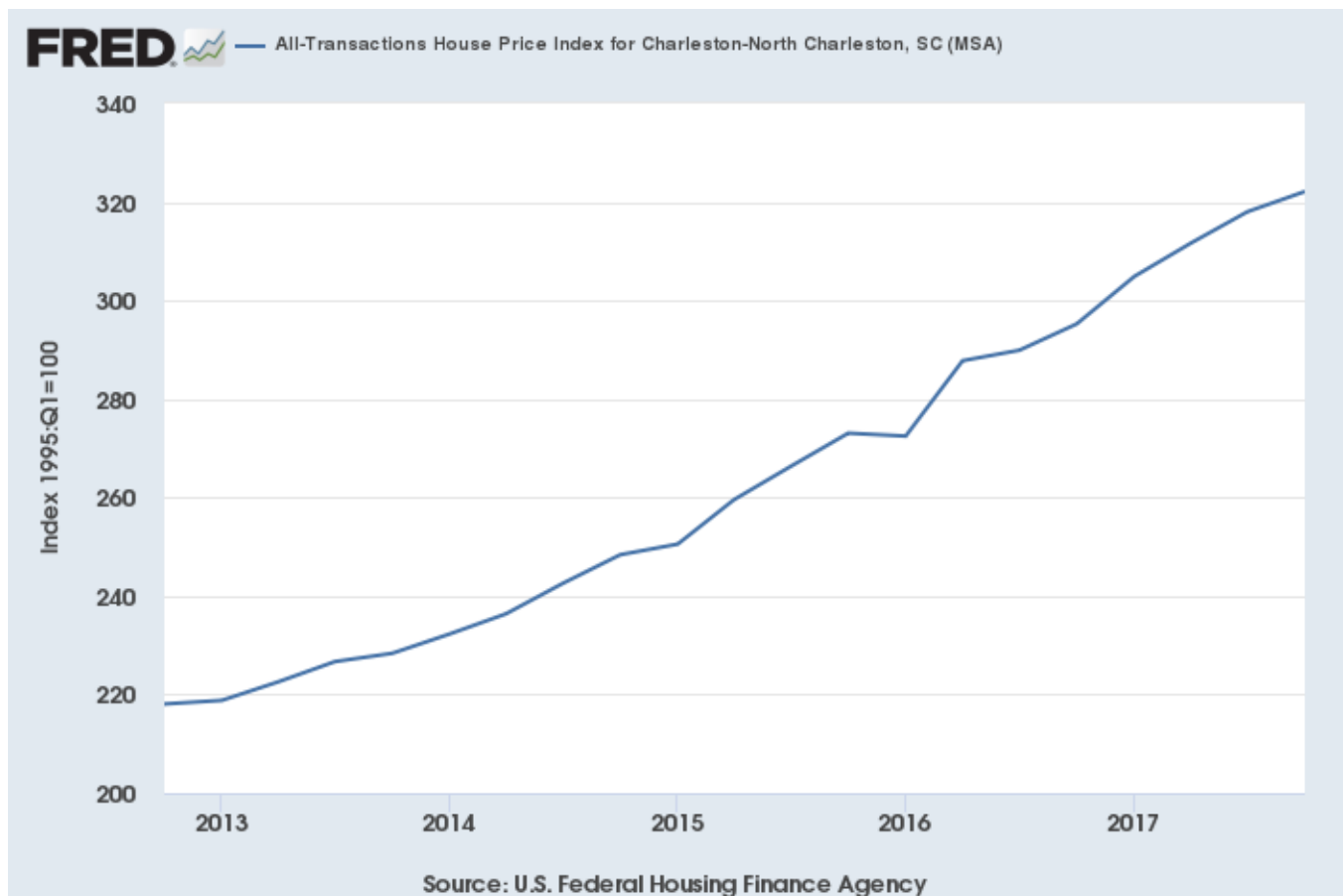
Charleston Airport Traffic

The Charleston International Airport continues an upward trend in airport traffic activity over the last 25 years, with a significant increase in deplanements over the last four years of almost 27.3%. This general upward trend is fueled by both tourism and business travel into/out of the Charleston area. From 2016 to 2017 alone, total deplanements grew almost 7.3%, from 1,853,161 to 1,987,633. 2017 was a record-breaking year for Charleston International Airport, with total airport traffic totaling 3,987,427 passengers. Passenger traffic increased every month in 2017, with exception of February and September, where an active hurricane season forced several flight cancellations across the Southeast. Charleston International Airport continues to grow its air service in both legacy carriers and new carriers.



Charleston Home Price Index

The Charleston Metro Region housing market has seen steady price appreciation in homes since Q1 2013, with the index having surpassed in 2015 the level observed at the peak of the housing bubble in 2008. Since Q1 2013, the Charleston Metro Region housing price index has grown nearly 47.7%. Strengthening home prices are likely due to a strengthening overall local economy and an increase in migration to the area.



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Charleston Port Activity

Total TEU traffic at the Charleston Port continues a general upward trend over the last four years and their respective quarters. However, the last two quarters of 2017 experienced a slowdown in total TEUs of -2.70% and -1.98% respectively.

