



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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South Carolina's Employment Situation

November 2011

Unemployment rate plummets; Employment climbs

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 9.9 percent in November, an unprecedented 0.6 percent drop from last month's 10.5 percent rate. This represents the largest monthly drop since 1976, the first year the Bureau of Labor Statistics made the monthly data series available. The national unemployment rate also saw a significant decrease, from 9 percent in October to 8.6 percent in November.

The labor force was reduced by 4,750 from October to November; the number of those employed grew by 9,777, and the number of unemployed declined by 14,527. The labor force level was 2,164,970 in November. These figures indicate that some jobseekers have suspended job search activities.

Nonfarm payroll employment grew 15,000 from October to November, and is up significantly (+30,700) from a year ago. This over-the-year job growth is similar to trends experienced prior to the most recent recession and is the largest increase for this time period since 2006.

Manufacturing employment increased by 900 from October to November and showed a very healthy gain of 10,800 since last year. The industry with the largest month-to-month increase was Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,800), with 7,100 of that increase from Retail Trade. Professional and Business Services (+6,600) had the second largest increase. The expected seasonal decline in Leisure and Hospitality continued with a drop of 3,300 in the last month.

The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Index, a global, independent business membership and research association working in the public interest, showed that the number of online ads in South Carolina decreased by 2,100 (to 45,400 ads) from October to November. However, this number is 2,500 more than a year ago. Occupations with the largest number of ads included registered nurses, occupational therapists and truck drivers. Nationally, there was a decline of 76,200 ads posted in November.

"Through the efforts of the businesses in our state who have hired more South Carolinians, we have seen a significant decrease in the unemployment rate," said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director Abraham Turner. "We want to partner with employers to help train the state's workforce because we know that training is the most important component in providing businesses with a skilled and productive labor force. Through a partnership of this kind, I am optimistic that job growth will continue in the coming months."

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide

November 2011

Jobs by Industry	November 2011	October 2011	November 2010	October 2011 to November 2011		November 2010 to November 2011	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,846,100	1,831,100	1,815,400	15,000	0.82%	30,700	1.69%
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,100	4,000	0	0.00%	100	2.50%
Construction	75,900	76,000	79,100	-100	-0.13%	-3,200	-4.05%
Manufacturing	219,900	219,000	209,100	900	0.41%	10,800	5.16%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	360,000	351,200	350,400	8,800	2.51%	9,600	2.74%
Information	25,600	25,500	25,400	100	0.39%	200	0.79%
Financial Activities	97,600	97,200	97,300	400	0.41%	300	0.31%
Professional and Business Services	230,200	224,100	222,000	6,100	2.72%	8,200	3.69%
Education and Health Services	220,000	219,100	215,300	900	0.41%	4,700	2.18%
Leisure and Hospitality	208,100	211,400	202,700	-3,300	-1.56%	5,400	2.66%
Government	336,800	335,900	341,400	900	0.27%	-4,600	-1.35%

Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

November 2011

INDUSTRY TITLE	November 2011	October 2011	November 2010	October 2011 to November 2011		November 2010 to November 2011	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	1,846,100	1,831,100	1,815,400	15,000	0.82%	30,700	1.69%
Anderson MSA	60,400	60,900	59,800	-500	-0.82%	600	1.00%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	290,200	287,800	285,200	2,400	0.83%	5,000	1.75%
Columbia MSA	352,400	349,200	343,700	3,200	0.92%	8,700	2.53%
Florence MSA	84,000	83,300	82,800	700	0.84%	1,200	1.45%
Greenville MSA	301,300	300,300	298,100	1,000	0.33%	3,200	1.07%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	116,000	118,400	113,200	-2,400	-2.03%	2,800	2.47%
Spartanburg MSA	120,500	119,700	119,500	800	0.67%	1,000	0.84%
Sumter MSA	36,900	36,900	37,300	0	0.00%	-400	-1.07%

Note: Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

AREA		November 2011				October 2011				November 2010			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marion County	↓	12,181	10,068	2,113	17.3	12,394	10,094	2,300	18.6	12,383	9,868	2,515	20.3
Allendale County	↓	3,318	2,756	562	16.9	3,379	2,745	634	18.8	3,304	2,694	610	18.5
Marlboro County	↓	11,332	9,529	1,803	15.9	11,650	9,556	2,094	18.0	11,627	9,451	2,176	18.7
Orangeburg County	↑	41,379	34,930	6,449	15.6	40,542	34,518	6,024	14.9	40,352	34,051	6,301	15.6
Union County	↓	11,136	9,439	1,697	15.2	11,306	9,425	1,881	16.6	11,311	9,312	1,999	17.7
Bamberg County	↓	6,461	5,492	969	15.0	6,370	5,406	964	15.1	6,300	5,342	958	15.2
Barnwell County	↓	8,561	7,307	1,254	14.6	8,636	7,287	1,349	15.6	8,665	7,222	1,443	16.7
Calhoun County	↑	7,008	6,019	989	14.1	6,847	6,023	824	12.0	6,711	5,869	842	12.5
Chester County	↓	14,144	12,150	1,994	14.1	14,477	12,229	2,248	15.5	14,672	12,059	2,613	17.8
Clarendon County	↓	12,873	11,121	1,752	13.6	12,945	11,059	1,886	14.6	12,901	10,914	1,987	15.4
Dillon County	↓	13,610	11,794	1,816	13.3	13,661	11,635	2,026	14.8	13,587	11,460	2,127	15.7
McCormick County	↓	3,271	2,836	435	13.3	3,287	2,813	474	14.4	3,317	2,791	526	15.9
Williamsburg County	↓	15,989	13,958	2,031	12.7	16,111	13,928	2,183	13.5	15,901	13,659	2,242	14.1
Lancaster County	↓	29,598	25,865	3,733	12.6	30,149	25,905	4,244	14.1	30,411	25,581	4,830	15.9
Hampton County	↓	7,925	6,953	972	12.3	8,030	6,909	1,121	14.0	7,940	6,810	1,130	14.2
Lee County	↓	8,239	7,223	1,016	12.3	8,316	7,214	1,102	13.3	8,190	7,076	1,114	13.6
Cherokee County	↓	24,292	21,375	2,917	12.0	24,427	21,277	3,150	12.9	24,465	21,025	3,440	14.1
Chesterfield County	↓	18,330	16,168	2,162	11.8	18,641	16,124	2,517	13.5	18,670	15,884	2,786	14.9
Colleton County	↓	17,566	15,536	2,030	11.6	17,573	15,374	2,199	12.5	17,492	15,150	2,342	13.4
York County	↓	109,228	97,112	12,116	11.1	113,204	98,693	14,511	12.8	114,607	97,181	17,426	15.2
Fairfield County	↓	10,734	9,578	1,156	10.8	10,812	9,584	1,228	11.4	10,811	9,338	1,473	13.6
Abbeville County	↓	10,770	9,614	1,156	10.7	10,808	9,585	1,223	11.3	10,809	9,444	1,365	12.6
Darlington County	↓	30,710	27,520	3,190	10.4	31,000	27,423	3,577	11.5	30,628	26,920	3,708	12.1
Greenwood County	↓	30,255	27,148	3,107	10.3	30,275	26,877	3,398	11.2	30,193	26,615	3,578	11.9
Horry County	↓	130,528	117,052	13,476	10.3	132,663	118,914	13,749	10.4	128,782	113,050	15,732	12.2
Sumter County	↓	44,659	40,040	4,619	10.3	45,259	40,274	4,985	11.0	45,435	40,127	5,308	11.7
Georgetown County	↓	30,170	27,251	2,919	9.7	30,179	27,123	3,056	10.1	30,215	26,568	3,647	12.1
Florence County	↓	63,710	57,568	6,142	9.6	63,967	57,366	6,601	10.3	63,552	56,312	7,240	11.4
Newberry County	↓	18,058	16,390	1,668	9.2	18,177	16,425	1,752	9.6	18,175	16,191	1,984	10.9
Spartanburg County	↓	134,377	122,018	12,359	9.2	135,776	122,356	13,420	9.9	135,586	120,870	14,716	10.9
Anderson County	↓	84,418	76,760	7,658	9.1	85,780	77,845	7,935	9.3	85,354	75,966	9,388	11.0
Berkeley County	↓	81,509	74,295	7,214	8.9	82,164	74,228	7,936	9.7	80,887	72,840	8,047	9.9
Laurens County	↓	31,753	28,920	2,833	8.9	32,211	29,100	3,111	9.7	32,200	28,605	3,595	11.2
Oconee County	↓	30,628	27,904	2,724	8.9	30,673	27,760	2,913	9.5	30,772	27,389	3,383	11.0
Edgefield County	↓	10,904	9,958	946	8.7	11,156	10,072	1,084	9.7	11,144	10,090	1,054	9.5
Kershaw County	↓	29,796	27,242	2,554	8.6	29,997	27,261	2,736	9.1	29,750	26,562	3,188	10.7
Jasper County	↓	10,399	9,534	865	8.3	10,277	9,382	895	8.7	10,330	9,302	1,028	10.0
Pickens County	↓	56,700	52,141	4,559	8.0	57,371	52,464	4,907	8.6	57,063	51,572	5,491	9.6
Richland County	↓	180,885	166,452	14,433	8.0	182,670	166,567	16,103	8.8	179,283	162,296	16,987	9.5
Saluda County	↓	8,986	8,273	713	7.9	9,127	8,278	849	9.3	8,902	8,066	836	9.4
Dorchester County	↓	64,489	59,470	5,019	7.8	64,858	59,417	5,441	8.4	64,295	58,306	5,989	9.3
Aiken County	↓	74,948	69,160	5,788	7.7	76,721	69,948	6,773	8.8	76,579	70,079	6,500	8.5
Beaufort County	↓	65,271	60,442	4,829	7.4	64,776	59,485	5,291	8.2	64,704	58,973	5,731	8.9
Charleston County	↓	175,967	162,954	13,013	7.4	176,896	162,808	14,088	8.0	175,479	159,763	15,716	9.0
Greenville County	↓	222,372	205,835	16,537	7.4	225,106	207,113	17,993	8.0	223,801	203,589	20,212	9.0
Lexington County	↓	134,038	124,714	9,324	7.0	134,888	124,800	10,088	7.5	132,457	121,600	10,857	8.2
Charleston MSA	↓	321,965	296,719	25,246	7.8	323,918	296,453	27,465	8.5	320,661	290,909	29,752	9.3
Columbia MSA	↓	371,447	342,278	29,169	7.9	374,342	342,514	31,828	8.5	367,914	333,731	34,183	9.3
Florence MSA	↓	94,420	85,088	9,332	9.9	94,967	84,789	10,178	10.7	94,180	83,232	10,948	11.6
Greenville MSA	↓	310,825	286,896	23,929	7.7	314,689	288,677	26,012	8.3	313,063	283,766	29,297	9.4
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,164,970	1,951,514	213,456	9.9	2,169,720	1,941,737	227,983	10.5	2,162,500	1,926,725	235,775	10.9

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
- Unemployment Rate =