



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **South Carolina's Employment Situation October 2011**

#### *Unemployment rate drops; Employment bumps up*

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate experienced a significant drop, from a revised estimate of 10.9 percent in September to 10.5 percent in October. Fewer job seekers during the month, coupled with stronger employment growth led to the first September to October decline in the rate in five years.

A gain of 10,066 from September to October brought the total number of employed South Carolinians to 1,941,778. The number of unemployed people declined over the month by 9,611, making the total unemployed count fall to 227,719.

The national unemployment rate dropped slightly from 9.1 percent to 9.0 percent.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased 9,400 from September to October. This gain reverses a three-month decline, and is an increase of 15,000 from a year ago. Manufacturing continues its upward trend, climbing 600 since last month and reflects a strong increase of 10,800 since last year.

The largest industry sector increases were in Government (+3,500), Education and Health Services (+2,200), and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+2,100). Two sectors saw decreases in the last month: Leisure and Hospitality (-2,200) and Natural Resources and Mining (-100).

Although increases were seen in Construction (+700) and Government over the month, they are still recording negative numbers from a year ago: Construction (-4,700) and Government (-5,100).

The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Index, a global, independent business membership and research association working in the public interest, reflected that the number of online ads in South Carolina increased by 1,500 (to 47,500 ads) from September to October. Nationally, there was a decline of 13,600 ads posted in October.

"South Carolina recently received roughly \$20 million in workforce development grants from the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education to be used for retraining unemployed citizens in emerging industries, such as industrial maintenance and manufacturing, engineering, and transportation," said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director Abraham Turner. "I am confident that with this training we can expect to see a continued decrease in our state's unemployment rate."

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# **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

Statewide  
October 2011

| Jobs by Industry                     | October<br>2011 | September<br>2011 | October<br>2010 | September 2011<br>to<br>October 2011 |             | October 2010<br>to<br>October 2011 |             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                      |                 |                   |                 | #<br>Change                          | %<br>Change | #<br>Change                        | %<br>Change |
| <b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>      | 1,832,500       | 1,823,100         | 1,817,500       | 9,400                                | 0.52%       | 15,000                             | 0.83%       |
| Natural Resources and Mining         | 4,000           | 4,100             | 4,000           | -100                                 | -2.44%      | 0                                  | 0.00%       |
| Construction                         | 76,400          | 75,700            | 81,100          | 700                                  | 0.92%       | -4,700                             | -5.80%      |
| Manufacturing                        | 219,300         | 218,700           | 208,500         | 600                                  | 0.27%       | 10,800                             | 5.18%       |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 350,600         | 348,500           | 346,800         | 2,100                                | 0.60%       | 3,800                              | 1.10%       |
| Information                          | 25,400          | 25,200            | 25,300          | 200                                  | 0.79%       | 100                                | 0.40%       |
| Financial Activities                 | 97,700          | 96,100            | 96,900          | 1,600                                | 1.66%       | 800                                | 0.83%       |
| Professional and Business Services   | 224,500         | 223,300           | 220,600         | 1,200                                | 0.54%       | 3,900                              | 1.77%       |
| Education and Health Services        | 219,300         | 217,100           | 215,300         | 2,200                                | 1.01%       | 4,000                              | 1.86%       |
| Leisure and Hospitality              | 211,400         | 213,600           | 209,100         | -2,200                               | -1.03%      | 2,300                              | 1.10%       |
| Government                           | 336,000         | 332,500           | 341,100         | 3,500                                | 1.05%       | -5,100                             | -1.50%      |

**Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted**

## **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

October 2011

| INDUSTRY TITLE                          | October<br>2011 | September<br>2011 | October<br>2010 | September 2011<br>to<br>October 2011 |             | October 2010<br>to<br>October 2011 |             |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                         |                 |                   |                 | #<br>Change                          | %<br>Change | #<br>Change                        | %<br>Change |
| <b>Statewide</b>                        | 1,832,500       | 1,823,100         | 1,817,500       | 9,400                                | 0.52%       | 15,000                             | 0.83%       |
| Anderson MSA                            | 61,500          | 60,100            | 60,100          | 1,400                                | 2.33%       | 1,400                              | 2.33%       |
| Charleston/North Charleston MSA         | 287,800         | 286,300           | 285,100         | 1,500                                | 0.52%       | 2,700                              | 0.95%       |
| Columbia MSA                            | 348,500         | 346,200           | 343,000         | 2,300                                | 0.66%       | 5,500                              | 1.60%       |
| Florence MSA                            | 83,400          | 82,600            | 82,400          | 800                                  | 0.97%       | 1,000                              | 1.21%       |
| Greenville MSA                          | 299,000         | 300,300           | 296,500         | -1,300                               | -0.43%      | 2,500                              | 0.84%       |
| Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA | 118,600         | 119,900           | 115,700         | -1,300                               | -1.08%      | 2,900                              | 2.51%       |
| Spartanburg MSA                         | 119,900         | 117,900           | 119,100         | 2,000                                | 1.70%       | 800                                | 0.67%       |
| Sumter MSA                              | 37,000          | 36,700            | 37,100          | 300                                  | 0.82%       | -100                               | -0.27%      |

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                |   | October 2011   |                 |              |          | September 2011 |                 |              |          | October 2010   |                 |              |          |
|---------------------|---|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|
|                     |   | LABOR<br>FORCE | EMPLOY-<br>MENT | UNEMPLOYMENT |          | LABOR<br>FORCE | EMPLOY-<br>MENT | UNEMPLOYMENT |          | LABOR<br>FORCE | EMPLOY-<br>MENT | UNEMPLOYMENT |          |
|                     |   |                |                 | LEVEL        | RATE (%) |                |                 | LEVEL        | RATE (%) |                |                 | LEVEL        | RATE (%) |
| Allendale County    | ↓ | 3,397          | 2,756           | 641          | 18.9     | 3,360          | 2,716           | 644          | 19.2     | 3,364          | 2,757           | 607          | 18.0     |
| Marion County       | ↓ | 12,429         | 10,125          | 2,304        | 18.5     | 12,496         | 10,032          | 2,464        | 19.7     | 12,465         | 10,049          | 2,416        | 19.4     |
| Marlboro County     | ↓ | 11,571         | 9,586           | 1,985        | 17.2     | 11,704         | 9,496           | 2,208        | 18.9     | 11,596         | 9,600           | 1,996        | 17.2     |
| Union County        | ↓ | 11,345         | 9,451           | 1,894        | 16.7     | 11,271         | 9,339           | 1,932        | 17.1     | 11,362         | 9,392           | 1,970        | 17.3     |
| Barnwell County     | ↓ | 8,665          | 7,308           | 1,357        | 15.7     | 8,645          | 7,233           | 1,412        | 16.3     | 8,758          | 7,303           | 1,455        | 16.6     |
| Chester County      | ↓ | 14,478         | 12,256          | 2,222        | 15.3     | 14,572         | 12,168          | 2,404        | 16.5     | 14,660         | 12,162          | 2,498        | 17.0     |
| Bamberg County      | ↓ | 6,402          | 5,427           | 975          | 15.2     | 6,391          | 5,384           | 1,007        | 15.8     | 6,370          | 5,428           | 942          | 14.8     |
| Orangeburg County   | ↓ | 40,687         | 34,622          | 6,065        | 14.9     | 40,822         | 34,362          | 6,460        | 15.8     | 40,546         | 34,520          | 6,026        | 14.9     |
| Dillon County       | ↓ | 13,675         | 11,675          | 2,000        | 14.6     | 13,749         | 11,582          | 2,167        | 15.8     | 13,653         | 11,657          | 1,996        | 14.6     |
| Clarendon County    | ↓ | 12,985         | 11,096          | 1,889        | 14.5     | 12,952         | 10,949          | 2,003        | 15.5     | 13,030         | 11,069          | 1,961        | 15.0     |
| McCormick County    | ↓ | 3,288          | 2,823           | 465          | 14.1     | 3,301          | 2,804           | 497          | 15.1     | 3,313          | 2,824           | 489          | 14.8     |
| Hampton County      | ↓ | 8,060          | 6,933           | 1,127        | 14.0     | 7,980          | 6,848           | 1,132        | 14.2     | 8,022          | 6,928           | 1,094        | 13.6     |
| Lancaster County    | ↓ | 30,082         | 25,964          | 4,118        | 13.7     | 30,280         | 25,761          | 4,519        | 14.9     | 30,169         | 25,774          | 4,395        | 14.6     |
| Williamsburg County | ↓ | 16,166         | 13,973          | 2,193        | 13.6     | 16,120         | 13,820          | 2,300        | 14.3     | 16,061         | 13,894          | 2,167        | 13.5     |
| Lee County          | ↓ | 8,334          | 7,228           | 1,106        | 13.3     | 8,324          | 7,163           | 1,161        | 13.9     | 8,314          | 7,194           | 1,120        | 13.5     |
| Chesterfield County | ↓ | 18,560         | 16,169          | 2,391        | 12.9     | 18,614         | 15,990          | 2,624        | 14.1     | 18,594         | 16,084          | 2,510        | 13.5     |
| Cherokee County     | ↓ | 24,465         | 21,345          | 3,120        | 12.8     | 24,408         | 21,093          | 3,315        | 13.6     | 24,448         | 21,180          | 3,268        | 13.4     |
| Colleton County     | ↓ | 17,645         | 15,420          | 2,225        | 12.6     | 17,618         | 15,233          | 2,385        | 13.5     | 17,590         | 15,354          | 2,236        | 12.7     |
| Calhoun County      | ↓ | 6,861          | 6,010           | 851          | 12.4     | 6,878          | 5,961           | 917          | 13.3     | 6,662          | 5,885           | 777          | 11.7     |
| York County         | ↓ | 112,286        | 98,676          | 13,610       | 12.1     | 114,613        | 98,278          | 16,335       | 14.3     | 112,533        | 97,288          | 15,245       | 13.5     |
| Darlington County   | ↓ | 31,027         | 27,437          | 3,590        | 11.6     | 30,971         | 27,198          | 3,773        | 12.2     | 30,641         | 27,029          | 3,612        | 11.8     |
| Fairfield County    | ↓ | 10,799         | 9,564           | 1,235        | 11.4     | 10,784         | 9,485           | 1,299        | 12.0     | 10,781         | 9,363           | 1,418        | 13.2     |
| Abbeville County    | ↓ | 10,854         | 9,623           | 1,231        | 11.3     | 10,811         | 9,502           | 1,309        | 12.1     | 10,923         | 9,550           | 1,373        | 12.6     |
| Greenwood County    | ↓ | 30,402         | 26,972          | 3,430        | 11.3     | 30,252         | 26,696          | 3,556        | 11.8     | 30,378         | 26,855          | 3,523        | 11.6     |
| Sumter County       | ↓ | 45,312         | 40,364          | 4,948        | 10.9     | 45,162         | 39,955          | 5,207        | 11.5     | 45,399         | 40,152          | 5,247        | 11.6     |
| Florence County     | ↓ | 64,077         | 57,394          | 6,683        | 10.4     | 63,943         | 56,895          | 7,048        | 11.0     | 63,570         | 56,540          | 7,030        | 11.1     |
| Horry County        | ↓ | 132,960        | 119,144         | 13,816       | 10.4     | 134,864        | 120,695         | 14,169       | 10.5     | 130,681        | 116,160         | 14,521       | 11.1     |
| Georgetown County   | ↓ | 30,302         | 27,215          | 3,087        | 10.2     | 30,211         | 26,978          | 3,233        | 10.7     | 30,468         | 27,004          | 3,464        | 11.4     |
| Laurens County      | ↓ | 32,178         | 28,987          | 3,191        | 9.9      | 32,316         | 29,021          | 3,295        | 10.2     | 32,202         | 28,591          | 3,611        | 11.2     |
| Spartanburg County  | ↓ | 135,969        | 122,455         | 13,514       | 9.9      | 134,844        | 120,639         | 14,205       | 10.5     | 135,335        | 120,911         | 14,424       | 10.7     |
| Berkeley County     | ↓ | 82,260         | 74,211          | 8,049        | 9.8      | 81,950         | 73,709          | 8,241        | 10.1     | 81,083         | 73,120          | 7,963        | 9.8      |
| Newberry County     | ↓ | 18,221         | 16,458          | 1,763        | 9.7      | 18,262         | 16,359          | 1,903        | 10.4     | 18,353         | 16,451          | 1,902        | 10.4     |
| Edgefield County    | ↓ | 11,140         | 10,068          | 1,072        | 9.6      | 11,139         | 10,001          | 1,138        | 10.2     | 11,259         | 10,108          | 1,151        | 10.2     |
| Saluda County       | ↑ | 9,134          | 8,261           | 873          | 9.6      | 8,947          | 8,193           | 754          | 8.4      | 8,938          | 8,088           | 850          | 9.5      |
| Oconee County       | ↓ | 30,755         | 27,823          | 2,932        | 9.5      | 30,690         | 27,563          | 3,127        | 10.2     | 30,942         | 27,639          | 3,303        | 10.7     |
| Anderson County     | ↓ | 86,237         | 78,230          | 8,007        | 9.3      | 85,303         | 76,885          | 8,418        | 9.9      | 85,602         | 76,476          | 9,126        | 10.7     |
| Kershaw County      | ↓ | 29,941         | 27,202          | 2,739        | 9.1      | 29,879         | 26,979          | 2,900        | 9.7      | 29,663         | 26,633          | 3,030        | 10.2     |
| Richland County     | ↓ | 182,230        | 166,210         | 16,020       | 8.8      | 182,311        | 164,846         | 17,465       | 9.6      | 179,778        | 162,730         | 17,048       | 9.5      |
| Pickens County      | ↓ | 57,246         | 52,260          | 4,986        | 8.7      | 57,507         | 52,322          | 5,185        | 9.0      | 56,957         | 51,547          | 5,410        | 9.5      |
| Jasper County       | ↓ | 10,305         | 9,416           | 889          | 8.6      | 10,295         | 9,306           | 989          | 9.6      | 10,351         | 9,383           | 968          | 9.4      |
| Aiken County        | ↓ | 76,436         | 69,920          | 6,516        | 8.5      | 76,778         | 69,456          | 7,322        | 9.5      | 76,584         | 70,203          | 6,381        | 8.3      |
| Dorchester County   | ↓ | 64,914         | 59,403          | 5,511        | 8.5      | 64,764         | 59,001          | 5,763        | 8.9      | 64,512         | 58,529          | 5,983        | 9.3      |
| Beaufort County     | ↓ | 65,023         | 59,697          | 5,326        | 8.2      | 64,623         | 59,002          | 5,621        | 8.7      | 65,115         | 59,488          | 5,627        | 8.6      |
| Greenville County   | ↓ | 224,328        | 206,306         | 18,022       | 8.0      | 225,701        | 206,550         | 19,151       | 8.5      | 223,519        | 203,489         | 20,030       | 9.0      |
| Charleston County   | ↓ | 176,824        | 162,770         | 14,054       | 7.9      | 176,887        | 161,669         | 15,218       | 8.6      | 175,730        | 160,376         | 15,354       | 8.7      |
| Lexington County    | ↓ | 134,743        | 124,533         | 10,210       | 7.6      | 134,287        | 123,511         | 10,776       | 8.0      | 132,458        | 121,925         | 10,533       | 8.0      |
|                     |   |                |                 |              |          |                |                 |              |          |                |                 |              |          |
| Charleston MSA      | ↓ | 323,999        | 296,385         | 27,614       | 8.5      | 323,602        | 294,380         | 29,222       | 9.0      | 321,325        | 292,025         | 29,300       | 9.1      |
| Columbia MSA        | ↓ | 373,708        | 341,780         | 31,928       | 8.5      | 373,086        | 338,975         | 34,111       | 9.1      | 368,281        | 334,624         | 33,657       | 9.1      |
| Florence MSA        | ↓ | 95,104         | 84,831          | 10,273       | 10.8     | 94,914         | 84,093          | 10,821       | 11.4     | 94,211         | 83,569          | 10,642       | 11.3     |
| Greenville MSA      | ↓ | 313,752        | 287,553         | 26,199       | 8.4      | 315,524        | 287,893         | 27,631       | 8.8      | 312,679        | 283,627         | 29,052       | 9.3      |
| SEASONALLY ADJUSTED |   |                |                 |              |          |                |                 |              |          |                |                 |              |          |
| South Carolina      | ↓ | 2,169,497      | 1,941,778       | 227,719      | 10.5     | 2,169,042      | 1,931,712       | 237,330      | 10.9     | 2,161,171      | 1,925,262       | 235,909      | 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 =