



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

May 20, 2011

South Carolina's Employment Situation April 2011

*SC Job Gains Outpace the National Average;
Unemployment Rate Gradually Drops*

South Carolina continues to display one of the fastest declining unemployment rates in the Southeast. April's rate of 9.8 percent reflects the fourth month in a row the rate has declined, and represents a whopping 1.1 percent decline since December 2010 and a 2 percent decline since 2009. At the same time, employment estimates continued to increase for the eighth consecutive month.

In April, there was an increase of 11,700 nonagricultural jobs (not seasonally adjusted). Industries with the greatest growth were Leisure and Hospitality (6,600), Retail Trade (2,100) and Manufacturing (1,600). The state's labor force expanded to 2,152,855, according to the current population survey.

According to the establishment survey which looks at payroll, since January the state's percent job gains have exceeded the national average. This has allowed over 14,000 South Carolinians to return to work since the beginning of this year.

Similar to the decreasing unemployment rate, other positive trends show that the average weekly initial claims for state unemployment benefits have dropped down to pre-recession levels from a high of 8,637 in 2008 to a current number of around 3,700. Likewise, the average weekly payment for state unemployment benefits declined from a high of almost \$21 million in 2009 to just under \$8 million in May 2011.

Gov. Haley said, "This is just another reason to celebrate what's happening in South Carolina. We've now seen four straight months of declining unemployment with over 7,000 new jobs announced. Every day our team is selling South Carolina, and it's an easy sell. Business leaders across this state and nation know that we will fight to keep our state a competitive and hospitable environment to bring and expand jobs."

“We are excited about the continued decline of the unemployment rate and the steady increase of job estimates in the state, and I am encouraged that the South Carolina employment landscape appears to have turned the corner,” said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director John Finan. “We know through our own employment services that the jobs are out there, and we are certainly making every effort to match good people with good jobs. Also, the decline in benefit payments means good news for businesses when tax rates are calculated next year.”

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (Jobs)

April - 2011

Jobs by Industry	April 2011	March 2011	April 2010	Net Change From	
				Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,826,000	1,814,300	1,809,900	11,700	16,100
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,100	4,000	-	100
Construction	76,600	75,500	78,800	1,100	(2,200)
Manufacturing	212,700	211,100	206,600	1,600	6,100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	347,600	345,200	341,800	2,400	5,800
Information	25,700	25,700	25,700	-	-
Financial Activities	97,800	97,500	97,200	300	600
Professional and Business Services	224,800	224,200	211,600	600	13,200
Educational and Health Services	218,500	219,100	212,800	(600)	5,700
Leisure and Hospitality	213,300	206,700	210,500	6,600	2,800
Government	337,300	337,800	352,100	(500)	(14,800)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

		Unemployment Rate		
Rank	County	April 2011	March 2011	% Change
1	MARION	18.7	18.8	-0.1
2	MARLBORO	17.2	17.4	-0.2
3	ALLENDALE	16.1	15.9	0.2
4	CHESTER	15.6	16.3	-0.7
5	UNION	15.3	15.5	-0.2
6	BARNWELL	14.7	14.0	0.7
7	McCORMICK	14.5	14.6	-0.1
8	DILLON	14.2	14.1	0.1
9	LANCASTER	13.9	13.9	0.0
10	CLARENDON	13.8	13.8	0.0
	YORK	13.8	14.0	-0.2
12	ORANGEBURG	13.0	13.0	0.0
13	BAMBERG	12.9	12.8	0.1
	HAMPTON	12.9	12.7	0.2
15	CHESTERFIELD	12.8	12.9	-0.1
16	CHEROKEE	12.7	12.7	0.0
17	LEE	12.5	12.3	0.2
18	WILLIAMSBURG	12.3	12.6	-0.3
19	COLLETON	12.1	12.1	0.0
20	FAIRFIELD	12.0	11.1	0.9
21	ABBEVILLE	11.1	11.4	-0.3
22	DARLINGTON	11.0	10.6	0.4
23	CALHOUN	10.8	9.8	1.0
	GREENWOOD	10.8	10.7	0.1
25	SUMTER MSA	10.5	10.2	0.3
26	GEORGETOWN	10.4	10.8	-0.4
27	FLORENCE	10.3	10.3	0.0
28	HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	10.2	11.3	-1.1
29	LAURENS	9.7	9.6	0.1
	NEWBERRY	9.7	9.6	0.1
31	SPARTANBURG MSA	9.6	9.5	0.1
32	OCONEE	9.5	9.7	-0.2
33	JASPER	9.3	8.8	0.5
34	ANDERSON MSA	9.0	9.0	0.0
35	BERKELEY	8.8	8.6	0.2
	KERSHAW	8.8	8.3	0.5
37	EDGEFIELD	8.7	8.4	0.3
38	AIKEN	8.3	8.1	0.2
	RICHLAND	8.3	8.3	0.0
40	SALUDA	8.2	8.1	0.1
41	PICKENS	8.0	8.1	-0.1
42	DORCHESTER	7.9	7.9	0.0
43	GREENVILLE	7.8	7.7	0.1
44	BEAUFORT	7.6	7.7	-0.1
	CHARLESTON	7.6	7.6	0.0
46	LEXINGTON	7.3	7.1	0.2

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

AREA:	April 2011								
	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	April 2011	March 2011	April 2010	April 2011	March 2011	April 2010	April 2011	March 2011	April 2010
ABBEVILLE	10,784	10,793	11,137	1,194	1,233	1,410	11.1	11.4	12.7
AIKEN	77,084	76,490	78,513	6,396	6,204	6,490	8.3	8.1	8.3
ALLENDALE	3,219	3,220	3,356	517	512	634	16.1	15.9	18.9
ANDERSON MSA	86,162	85,599	85,183	7,762	7,665	9,257	9.0	9.0	10.9
BAMBERG	6,221	6,176	6,582	805	791	1,038	12.9	12.8	15.8
BARNWELL	8,543	8,455	8,904	1,255	1,186	1,533	14.7	14.0	17.2
BEAUFORT	64,508	64,464	62,747	4,928	4,965	4,998	7.6	7.7	8.0
BERKELEY	81,370	80,741	81,113	7,189	6,967	7,592	8.8	8.6	9.4
CALHOUN	6,640	6,582	6,680	716	648	694	10.8	9.8	10.4
CHARLESTON	176,145	175,164	176,128	13,442	13,354	14,872	7.6	7.6	8.4
CHEROKEE	24,395	24,294	25,237	3,110	3,088	3,659	12.7	12.7	14.5
CHESTER	14,474	14,500	15,186	2,263	2,360	2,885	15.6	16.3	19.0
CHESTERFIELD	18,380	18,349	19,108	2,354	2,358	3,028	12.8	12.9	15.8
CLARENDON	12,752	12,770	12,746	1,764	1,759	1,788	13.8	13.8	14.0
COLLETON	17,374	17,372	17,317	2,094	2,098	2,183	12.1	12.1	12.6
DARLINGTON	30,782	30,403	30,987	3,384	3,224	3,634	11.0	10.6	11.7
DILLON	13,536	13,459	13,690	1,917	1,903	2,155	14.2	14.1	15.7
DORCHESTER	64,450	64,092	64,428	5,071	5,039	5,577	7.9	7.9	8.7
EDGEFIELD	11,145	11,051	11,432	967	931	1,062	8.7	8.4	9.3
FAIRFIELD	10,717	10,623	10,920	1,291	1,180	1,396	12.0	11.1	12.8
FLORENCE	63,883	63,408	64,087	6,571	6,553	6,867	10.3	10.3	10.7
GEORGETOWN	30,197	30,015	30,529	3,136	3,230	3,616	10.4	10.8	11.8
GREENVILLE	223,100	221,924	224,793	17,322	17,138	20,406	7.8	7.7	9.1
GREENWOOD	30,197	30,063	30,920	3,250	3,206	3,541	10.8	10.7	11.5
HAMPTON	7,865	7,850	7,902	1,011	997	1,059	12.9	12.7	13.4
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	134,746	128,857	132,816	13,811	14,523	15,024	10.2	11.3	11.3
JASPER	10,360	10,291	9,995	962	906	886	9.3	8.8	8.9
KERSHAW	29,392	29,293	30,007	2,581	2,435	2,916	8.8	8.3	9.7
LANCASTER	30,108	29,947	31,101	4,198	4,174	5,069	13.9	13.9	16.3
LAURENS	32,033	31,830	32,052	3,121	3,057	3,335	9.7	9.6	10.4
LEE	8,161	8,136	8,348	1,017	1,002	1,108	12.5	12.3	13.3
LEXINGTON	132,398	132,392	134,102	9,656	9,437	10,081	7.3	7.1	7.5
MARION	12,323	12,244	12,655	2,303	2,306	2,530	18.7	18.8	20.0
MARLBORO	11,502	11,524	12,036	1,981	2,000	2,444	17.2	17.4	20.3
McCORMICK	3,308	3,291	3,372	479	481	512	14.5	14.6	15.2
NEWBERRY	18,040	18,010	18,620	1,743	1,725	1,914	9.7	9.6	10.3
OCONEE	30,617	30,598	31,317	2,906	2,961	3,532	9.5	9.7	11.3
ORANGEBURG	39,695	39,466	41,593	5,153	5,122	5,780	13.0	13.0	13.9
PICKENS	56,647	56,422	57,313	4,521	4,547	5,539	8.0	8.1	9.7
RICHLAND	178,586	179,030	181,495	14,766	14,926	15,967	8.3	8.3	8.8
SALUDA	8,874	8,876	8,969	732	720	742	8.2	8.1	8.3
SPARTANBURG MSA	134,485	134,158	134,772	12,904	12,710	14,961	9.6	9.5	11.1
SUMTER MSA	45,398	45,402	45,650	4,751	4,631	5,122	10.5	10.2	11.2
UNION	11,086	11,089	11,529	1,692	1,717	2,152	15.3	15.5	18.7
WILLIAMSBURG	15,756	15,731	15,943	1,943	1,977	2,194	12.3	12.6	13.8
YORK	114,732	113,880	116,952	15,863	15,990	18,565	13.8	14.0	15.9
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	321,964	319,997	321,669	25,702	25,360	28,041	8.0	7.9	8.7
COLA MSA	366,608	366,795	372,173	29,742	29,345	31,796	8.1	8.0	8.5
FLORENCE MSA	94,665	93,811	95,074	9,955	9,777	10,501	10.5	10.4	11.0
GRNV MSA	311,781	310,176	314,158	24,964	24,742	29,280	8.0	8.0	9.3
South Carolina*	2,152.9	2,152.4	2,167.8	210.6	213.0	244.9	9.8	9.9	11.3

BM Year 2010

* Seasonally Adjusted

County data not seasonally adjusted

Current Month's estimates are preliminary