



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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South Carolina's Employment Situation January 2012

Unemployment Rate Continues to Decline

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January was 9.3 percent, down 0.3 percentage points from December's revised rate of 9.6 percent, and was the sixth consecutive monthly decline. The drop was mainly the result of an estimated 7,900 people leaving the labor force. The number of employed persons over the month remained virtually the same at 1,951,314. The number of unemployed persons was estimated at 200,190, the lowest level since November 2008. Nationally, the unemployment rate fell to 8.3 percent in January.

Annually, labor force estimates are revised as part of the benchmarking process, a nationwide procedure mandated by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) using up-to-date data from various sources. After benchmarking, South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for 2011 averaged 10.3 percent, down from the 11.2 percent average reported in 2010. The state's employment increased by approximately 26,900 from January 2011 to 2012, even though there was little change in the labor force, bringing the level to 2,151,504.

Typically, historical December-to-January trends depict a loss of jobs. In January 2012, there was no deviation from this norm; the unadjusted payroll survey employment fell by 33,300. Notably, there was a decrease of 29,000 private jobs and a loss of 4,300 government jobs. Retail Trade declined 8,300 as temporary help was released after the holiday season. Other declines were reported in Professional and Business Services (-5,800), Leisure and Hospitality (-5,000), and Construction (-2,000). Manufacturing showed little change for the month (+100).

Despite a monthly loss, the state's job growth showed an increase of 29,900 jobs over the year. Leading the job growth annually were Manufacturing (+11,700); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+6,700); Leisure and Hospitality (+6,200); and Professional and Business Services (+5,600).

The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Index showed the number of online job ads in South Carolina had a decrease of about 600 (to 50,000) from December 2011 to January 2012. Across the U.S., there was an increase in ads posted (+61,300) in January. Since a year ago, online ads in the state were about 400 less than January 2011. The number of jobseekers per job opening decreased to 4.0 in January 2012, down from 5.0 in December 2011.

"As I've stated in the past, the continued decline in the unemployment rate is something for South Carolinians to be excited about, and we know from the SC Works system that the jobs are out there," said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director Abraham J. Turner. "It is incumbent upon us, however, to continue to work diligently with businesses to identify the skills necessary to match jobseekers to those jobs."

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
January 2012

Jobs by Industry	January 2012	December 2011	January 2011	December 2011 to January 2012		January 2011 to January 2012	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,809,500	1,842,800	1,779,600	-33,300	-1.81%	29,900	1.68%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,800	3,800	3,900	0	0.00%	-100	-2.56%
Construction	73,600	75,600	74,000	-2,000	-2.65%	-400	-0.54%
Manufacturing	221,100	221,000	209,400	100	0.05%	11,700	5.59%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	348,400	359,600	341,700	-11,200	-3.11%	6,700	1.96%
Information	26,100	26,300	26,000	-200	-0.76%	100	0.38%
Financial Activities	95,000	96,600	94,900	-1,600	-1.66%	100	0.11%
Professional and Business Services	223,400	229,200	217,800	-5,800	-2.53%	5,600	2.57%
Education and Health Services	215,900	218,400	213,300	-2,500	-1.14%	2,600	1.22%
Leisure and Hospitality	196,400	201,400	190,200	-5,000	-2.48%	6,200	3.26%
Government	336,900	341,200	340,900	-4,300	-1.26%	-4,000	-1.17%

Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)
January 2012

INDUSTRY TITLE	January 2012	December 2011	January 2011	December 2011 to January 2012		January 2011 to January 2012	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	1,809,500	1,842,800	1,779,600	-33,300	-1.81%	29,900	1.68%
Anderson MSA	57,600	58,500	58,000	-900	-1.54%	-400	-0.69%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	294,000	297,800	287,200	-3,800	-1.28%	6,800	2.37%
Columbia MSA	345,900	349,700	338,500	-3,800	-1.09%	7,400	2.19%
Florence MSA	82,500	82,600	79,300	-100	-0.12%	3,200	4.04%
Greenville MSA	300,500	307,400	293,900	-6,900	-2.24%	6,600	2.25%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	106,300	109,800	100,900	-3,500	-3.19%	5,400	5.35%
Spartanburg MSA	116,900	118,200	113,200	-1,300	-1.10%	3,700	3.27%
Sumter MSA	36,400	37,200	36,800	-800	-2.15%	-400	-1.09%

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		January 2012				December 2011				January 2011			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Marion County	↑	11,854	9,579	2,275	19.2	11,897	9,746	2,151	18.1	12,486	9,780	2,706	21.7
Allendale County	↑	3,274	2,698	576	17.6	3,331	2,763	568	17.1	3,292	2,695	597	18.1
Marlboro County	↓	11,362	9,496	1,866	16.4	11,616	9,652	1,964	16.9	11,788	9,537	2,251	19.1
Barnwell County	↑	8,391	7,050	1,341	16.0	8,469	7,169	1,300	15.4	8,574	7,180	1,394	16.3
Union County	↑	11,266	9,544	1,722	15.3	11,415	9,679	1,736	15.2	11,742	9,656	2,086	17.8
Chester County	↑	14,379	12,207	2,172	15.1	14,518	12,370	2,148	14.8	15,093	12,343	2,750	18.2
Bamberg County	–	6,063	5,157	906	14.9	6,178	5,255	923	14.9	6,432	5,460	972	15.1
Clarendon County	↑	12,313	10,485	1,828	14.8	12,461	10,676	1,785	14.3	12,635	10,612	2,023	16.0
Dillon County	↓	12,973	11,095	1,878	14.5	13,222	11,297	1,925	14.6	13,472	11,259	2,213	16.4
McCormick County	↑	3,294	2,830	464	14.1	3,325	2,880	445	13.4	3,452	2,901	551	16.0
Orangeburg County	↓	40,280	34,705	5,575	13.8	40,971	35,289	5,682	13.9	41,344	35,184	6,160	14.9
Fairfield County	↑	10,852	9,391	1,461	13.5	10,739	9,418	1,321	12.3	10,864	9,252	1,612	14.8
Williamsburg County	↑	15,972	13,819	2,153	13.5	16,214	14,065	2,149	13.3	15,931	13,630	2,301	14.4
Horry County	↑	123,037	106,819	16,218	13.2	124,094	109,154	14,940	12.0	120,623	102,539	18,084	15.0
Lee County	↑	8,113	7,063	1,050	12.9	8,185	7,168	1,017	12.4	8,244	7,074	1,170	14.2
Cherokee County	↑	24,429	21,290	3,139	12.8	24,719	21,588	3,131	12.7	25,111	21,539	3,572	14.2
Hampton County	↑	7,578	6,611	967	12.8	7,729	6,748	981	12.7	7,787	6,664	1,123	14.4
Lancaster County	–	30,176	26,354	3,822	12.7	30,597	26,703	3,894	12.7	31,475	26,660	4,815	15.3
Colleton County	↑	16,944	14,818	2,126	12.5	17,161	15,065	2,096	12.2	16,885	14,577	2,308	13.7
Chesterfield County	↓	18,410	16,139	2,271	12.3	18,769	16,384	2,385	12.7	18,971	16,097	2,874	15.1
York County	↓	110,606	97,832	12,774	11.5	111,993	98,474	13,519	12.1	116,435	96,879	19,556	16.8
Calhoun County	↑	6,722	5,969	753	11.2	6,700	5,986	714	10.7	6,651	5,880	771	11.6
Georgetown County	↑	29,230	26,041	3,189	10.9	29,621	26,534	3,087	10.4	28,918	25,156	3,762	13.0
Greenwood County	↑	30,113	26,868	3,245	10.8	30,415	27,309	3,106	10.2	30,950	27,376	3,574	11.5
Sumter County	↑	44,164	39,454	4,710	10.7	44,571	39,861	4,710	10.6	45,171	39,947	5,224	11.6
Abbeville County	↑	10,496	9,381	1,115	10.6	10,637	9,536	1,101	10.4	10,959	9,606	1,353	12.3
Darlington County	↓	30,337	27,194	3,143	10.4	30,333	27,051	3,282	10.8	30,154	26,384	3,770	12.5
Florence County	↑	62,659	56,131	6,528	10.4	62,137	55,836	6,301	10.1	61,866	54,460	7,406	12.0
Edgefield County	–	11,080	10,023	1,057	9.5	11,150	10,093	1,057	9.5	11,203	10,162	1,041	9.3
Laurens County	↑	30,399	27,518	2,881	9.5	30,597	27,853	2,744	9.0	30,549	27,084	3,465	11.3
Spartanburg County	↑	131,556	119,117	12,439	9.5	132,050	119,663	12,387	9.4	131,108	116,389	14,719	11.2
Oconee County	↑	30,464	27,633	2,831	9.3	30,918	28,078	2,840	9.2	31,243	27,801	3,442	11.0
Anderson County	↑	81,665	74,272	7,393	9.1	82,296	74,931	7,365	8.9	83,838	74,678	9,160	10.9
Newberry County	–	17,917	16,292	1,625	9.1	18,218	16,557	1,661	9.1	18,541	16,584	1,957	10.6
Aiken County	↑	74,639	68,166	6,473	8.7	75,103	68,644	6,459	8.6	75,985	69,111	6,874	9.0
Jasper County	–	10,218	9,344	874	8.6	10,365	9,478	887	8.6	9,838	8,813	1,025	10.4
Pickens County	↑	57,665	52,704	4,961	8.6	58,032	53,347	4,685	8.1	57,277	51,874	5,403	9.4
Berkeley County	↓	83,722	76,567	7,155	8.5	84,055	76,801	7,254	8.6	82,668	75,179	7,489	9.1
Kershaw County	–	29,238	26,743	2,495	8.5	29,316	26,819	2,497	8.5	29,328	26,348	2,980	10.2
Saluda County	↑	8,989	8,226	763	8.5	8,965	8,250	715	8.0	8,981	8,105	876	9.8
Richland County	↓	178,756	164,355	14,401	8.1	179,884	164,827	15,057	8.4	177,752	161,927	15,825	8.9
Beaufort County	↑	62,926	58,035	4,891	7.8	63,732	58,866	4,866	7.6	60,152	54,734	5,418	9.0
Charleston County	–	174,446	161,497	12,949	7.4	174,902	161,990	12,912	7.4	173,198	158,570	14,628	8.4
Dorchester County	↓	67,533	62,605	4,928	7.3	67,908	62,796	5,112	7.5	67,003	61,470	5,533	8.3
Greenville County	↓	221,736	206,083	15,653	7.1	224,856	208,596	16,260	7.2	221,706	202,837	18,869	8.5
Lexington County	↓	131,335	122,308	9,027	6.9	131,970	122,658	9,312	7.1	130,699	120,501	10,198	7.8
Charleston MSA	–	325,700	300,669	25,031	7.7	326,865	301,586	25,279	7.7	322,869	295,219	27,650	8.6
Columbia MSA	↓	365,892	336,992	28,900	7.9	367,575	337,958	29,617	8.1	364,275	332,013	32,262	8.9
Florence MSA	–	92,996	83,325	9,671	10.4	92,470	82,887	9,583	10.4	92,020	80,844	11,176	12.1
Greenville MSA	–	309,800	286,305	23,495	7.6	313,485	289,796	23,689	7.6	309,531	281,795	27,736	9.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,151,504	1,951,314	200,190	9.3	2,159,404	1,951,325	208,079	9.6	2,152,042	1,924,413	227,629	10.6

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 =