



For Immediate Release

March 10, 2011

South Carolina's Employment Situation January 2011

Employment Gains Momentum While the Unemployment Rate Begins to Drop

The month of January continued to show positive results for South Carolina with an increase in employment. As the 5th consecutive month of employment growth for the state, this represents an additional 3,599 people going back to work. Since January of 2010, the state has seen employment rise by approximately 18,600.

More encouraging news for January was the declining unemployment rate. Seasonally adjusted, the unemployment rate declined to 10.5% - an improvement of four-tenths of a percent from a 10.9% revised rate for December. Similarly the national rate also dropped four-tenths of a percent from 9.4% in December to 9.0% in January.

Annually, labor force estimates are revised as part of a benchmarking process, a nationwide re-estimating procedure mandated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) using up-to-date data from employer payroll records. After benchmark, South Carolina's unemployment rate averaged 11.2% in 2010, down from an average of 11.3% in 2009.

Looking at total labor force, January's estimate showed a decrease of 5,716 for an overall level of 2,158,375. The total labor force has seen a reduction of approximately 9,100 people since January of 2010.

JOBS: Over the past 40 years, January has seen decreases in non-farm job counts when compared to December's estimates. January of 2011, continued to follow this pattern. The establishment payroll survey showed a drop of 42,700 nonagricultural jobs in January (not seasonally adjusted). Most affected industries included Retail Trade with a decline of 10,700, as temporary help was released after the holiday season. As the winter season continued, Leisure and Hospitality were also affected with a reduction of 7,300 jobs. Professional and Business Services reduced their payrolls by 5,900, mostly in temporary help agencies, Construction continued to drop by 5,200 and Manufacturing showed little change for the month. Government jobs were also down 5,400 as most support staff in state and local schools had not yet returned from the holiday break.

Showing slow progress, the estimated job count for January was 13,800 above the year-ago level.

“Employment in South Carolina has risen during the past 12 months and now stands at 18,600 more people with jobs compared to this same time last year,” said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director John Finan. “The news in South Carolina is positive and shows improvement in both employment and the unemployment rate, which gives rise to the hope and expectation that the number of jobs will continue to increase.”

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
January - 2011

Industry	January 2011	December 2010	January 2010	Net Change From	
				Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,774,200	1,816,900	1,760,400	-42,700	13,800
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,000	4,000	100	100
Construction	73,700	78,900	77,600	-5,200	-3,900
Manufacturing	209,000	209,600	205,600	-600	3,400
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	339,700	353,300	338,000	-13,600	1,700
Information	25,700	25,500	26,300	200	-600
Financial Activities	96,900	97,500	96,600	-600	300
Professional and Business Services	219,600	225,500	199,000	-5,900	20,600
Educational and Health Services	213,400	216,300	209,900	-2,900	3,500
Leisure and Hospitality	190,500	197,800	189,100	-7,300	1,400
Government	335,100	340,500	346,900	-5,400	-11,800

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

		Unemployment Rate		
Rank	County	January	December	% Change
		2011	2010	
1	Marion	21.0	20.6	0.4
2	Union	17.7	17.7	0.0
	Allendale	17.7	18.1	-0.4
4	Chester	17.6	17.8	-0.2
	Marlboro	17.6	18.8	-1.2
6	Barnwell	15.8	16.5	-0.7
7	McCormick	15.5	15.4	0.1
8	Clarendon	15.3	15.4	-0.1
9	Dillon	15.2	15.8	-0.6
10	Orangeburg	14.9	15.2	-0.3
	Bamberg	14.9	15.3	-0.4
12	York	14.6	15.3	-0.7
	Lancaster	14.6	15.6	-1.0
14	Williamsburg	14.3	14.2	0.1
15	Fairfield	14.0	13.6	0.4
16	Lee	13.8	13.6	0.2
	Cherokee	13.8	14.2	-0.4
	Hampton	13.8	14.2	-0.4
19	Chesterfield	13.7	14.8	-1.1
20	Horry	13.4	13.1	0.3
21	Colleton	13.1	13.4	-0.3
22	Abbeville	12.3	12.1	0.2
	Georgetown	12.3	12.4	-0.1
24	Greenwood	11.6	11.6	0.0
25	Darlington	11.5	12.1	-0.6
26	Calhoun	11.3	11.8	-0.5
27	Florence	11.1	11.3	-0.2
	Sumter	11.1	11.7	-0.6
29	Laurens	10.8	11.0	-0.2
30	Oconee	10.7	11.0	-0.3
31	Newberry	10.5	10.8	-0.3
32	Spartanburg	10.4	10.7	-0.3
33	Anderson	10.3	10.4	-0.1
34	Kershaw	9.6	10.0	-0.4
35	Jasper	9.5	9.6	-0.1
36	Pickens	9.1	9.3	-0.2
37	Saluda	9.0	9.3	-0.3
	Berkeley	9.0	9.7	-0.7
39	Edgefield	8.8	9.3	-0.5
40	Richland	8.5	9.3	-0.8
41	Dorchester	8.3	9.1	-0.8
42	Greenville	8.2	8.8	-0.6
43	Aiken	8.1	8.3	-0.2
	Beaufort	8.1	8.7	-0.6
	Charleston	8.1	8.7	-0.6
46	Lexington	7.4	8.1	-0.7

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

January 2011

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	January	December	January	January	December	January	January	December	January
	2011	2010	2010	2011	2010	2010	2011	2010	2010
ABBEVILLE	10,603	10,795	11,191	1,299	1,304	1,733	12.3	12.1	15.5
AIKEN	76,311	76,301	77,959	6,159	6,353	7,771	8.1	8.3	10.0
ALLENDALE	3,197	3,301	3,454	567	596	780	17.7	18.1	22.6
ANDERSON MSA	85,612	85,344	85,412	8,799	8,853	11,337	10.3	10.4	13.3
BAMBERG	6,157	6,333	6,495	915	970	1,119	14.9	15.3	17.2
BARNWELL	8,430	8,671	9,073	1,336	1,429	1,883	15.8	16.5	20.8
BEAUFORT	62,862	64,789	60,381	5,098	5,617	6,089	8.1	8.7	10.1
BERKELEY	80,145	80,736	79,955	7,201	7,871	8,490	9.0	9.7	10.6
CALHOUN	6,629	6,652	6,844	750	785	946	11.3	11.8	13.8
CHARLESTON	174,085	174,971	174,205	14,094	15,153	17,459	8.1	8.7	10.0
CHEROKEE	24,031	24,576	25,312	3,314	3,488	4,019	13.8	14.2	15.9
CHESTER	14,470	14,708	15,401	2,546	2,614	3,247	17.6	17.8	21.1
CHESTERFIELD	18,105	18,721	19,060	2,484	2,780	3,254	13.7	14.8	17.1
CLARENDON	12,639	12,924	12,799	1,932	1,992	2,098	15.3	15.4	16.4
COLLETON	17,094	17,542	16,862	2,233	2,345	2,490	13.1	13.4	14.8
DARLINGTON	30,635	30,720	31,103	3,519	3,720	4,192	11.5	12.1	13.5
DILLON	13,312	13,672	13,699	2,027	2,163	2,309	15.2	15.8	16.9
DORCHESTER	63,656	64,132	63,645	5,267	5,806	6,440	8.3	9.1	10.1
EDGEFIELD	11,073	11,099	11,391	972	1,027	1,285	8.8	9.3	11.3
FAIRFIELD	10,878	10,801	10,942	1,523	1,466	1,557	14.0	13.6	14.2
FLORENCE	63,789	63,689	64,329	7,065	7,208	8,033	11.1	11.3	12.5
GEORGETOWN	29,616	30,297	29,399	3,638	3,753	4,491	12.3	12.4	15.3
GREENVILLE	221,274	223,120	223,593	18,054	19,591	23,396	8.2	8.8	10.5
GREENWOOD	29,481	30,241	30,822	3,427	3,517	4,124	11.6	11.6	13.4
HAMPTON	7,722	7,973	7,877	1,069	1,135	1,242	13.8	14.2	15.8
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	128,358	127,233	125,952	17,142	16,623	19,823	13.4	13.1	15.7
JASPER	10,063	10,321	9,643	952	988	1,080	9.5	9.6	11.2
KERSHAW	29,429	29,491	29,998	2,820	2,939	3,304	9.6	10.0	11.0
LANCASTER	29,559	30,388	30,747	4,302	4,732	5,425	14.6	15.6	17.6
LAURENS	31,995	32,115	32,217	3,442	3,519	4,089	10.8	11.0	12.7
LEE	8,124	8,200	8,361	1,122	1,112	1,265	13.8	13.6	15.1
LEXINGTON	131,486	132,196	133,884	9,669	10,642	11,678	7.4	8.1	8.7
MARION	12,260	12,432	12,770	2,573	2,558	3,032	21.0	20.6	23.7
MARLBORO	11,311	11,652	11,892	1,993	2,186	2,415	17.6	18.8	20.3
MCCORMICK	3,249	3,310	3,398	505	510	596	15.5	15.4	17.5
NEWBERRY	17,753	18,194	18,656	1,872	1,957	2,211	10.5	10.8	11.9
OCONEE	30,174	30,891	31,256	3,214	3,408	4,351	10.7	11.0	13.9
ORANGEBURG	39,306	40,328	41,125	5,844	6,146	7,040	14.9	15.2	17.1
PICKENS	56,624	56,861	56,976	5,146	5,304	6,263	9.1	9.3	11.0
RICHLAND	177,593	178,882	181,120	15,007	16,647	18,015	8.5	9.3	9.9
SALUDA	8,884	8,890	9,024	803	827	918	9.0	9.3	10.2
SPARTANBURG MSA	135,244	135,190	135,625	14,094	14,440	17,210	10.4	10.7	12.7
SUMTER MSA	44,775	45,194	45,520	4,973	5,275	5,751	11.1	11.7	12.6
UNION	11,161	11,341	11,813	1,975	2,007	2,504	17.7	17.7	21.2
WILLIAMSBURG	15,627	15,953	15,799	2,228	2,265	2,657	14.3	14.2	16.8
YORK	114,137	114,693	113,963	16,686	17,586	17,262	14.6	15.3	15.1
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	317,886	319,840	317,805	26,562	28,831	32,389	8.4	9.0	10.2
COLA MSA	364,899	366,912	371,814	30,571	33,307	36,420	8.4	9.1	9.8
FLORENCE MSA	94,424	94,409	95,432	10,584	10,928	12,225	11.2	11.6	12.8
GRNV MSA	309,893	312,096	312,786	26,642	28,414	33,748	8.6	9.1	10.8
South Carolina*	2,158.4	2,164.1	2,167.5	226.7	236.0	254.4	10.5	10.9	11.7

* Seasonally Adjusted
County Not Seasonally Adjusted