



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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South Carolina's Employment Situation February 2012

Unemployment Rate Maintains Downward Momentum

For the seventh consecutive month the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has declined. Most recently, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 9.3 percent in January to 9.1 percent in February. With an increase of 9,864 employed people driving the decline, South Carolina experienced its third largest month-to-month gain in employment since 1976.

The number of individuals employed in February totaled 1,961,103. The unemployed group fell by 4,137, down to a level of 196,746. Nationally, the unemployment rate remained flat at 8.3 percent in February.

In the last 12 months, there was little change in the overall labor force, but employment improved, climbing about 32,560.

Further positive indicators were seen in non-farm employment in South Carolina, which increased by 17,900 jobs from January to February. Most of the gain (+10,100) was from increases in education (K-12 schools, and private and public universities) as institutions completed staffing for the spring semester.

Three industrial sectors had robust gains in employment: Professional and Business Services (+3,900), Health Care and Social Assistance (+3,200) and Leisure and Hospitality (+2,700). Even though registering a small gain, Manufacturing (+300) continued to grow. Retail Trade reflected its usual decline (-1,700) for this time of year and Financial Services fell (-1,000).

Since February 2011, South Carolina has seen an overall increase of 28,000 jobs. Manufacturing led the over-the-year rise with an estimated 9,500 additional jobs. Employment Services (a subset of Professional and Business Services) climbed 5,200 and Leisure and Hospitality rose 4,000. Health Care and Social Assistance (+3,800) and Transportation and Warehousing (+2,900) also added to the gains in the last twelve months.

The number of online job ads in South Carolina, as reported by the Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Index, increased about 900 (to 50,900) from January to February. The number of jobseekers per opening fell from 4.0 to 3.9 this past month. The U.S. as a whole saw an increase (+39,900). South Carolina's online ads were about 1,000 higher than the same time period a year ago.

The Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties) had the most ads (10,635), with the Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland Counties) coming in next (9,879). Of

all online ads, Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations had the highest number of ads in the state (10,005).

“The continued decline in the state’s unemployment rate and the increase in employed persons is good news for South Carolina.” said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director Abraham J. Turner. “It supports recent articles noting South Carolina as faring better at economic recovery than most other states.”

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
February 2012

Jobs by Industry	February 2012	January 2012	February 2011	January 2012 to February 2012		February 2011 to February 2012	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,826,800	1,808,900	1,798,800	17,900	0.99%	28,000	1.56%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,800	3,800	3,900	0	0.00%	-100	-2.56%
Construction	73,500	73,400	75,600	100	0.14%	-2,100	-2.78%
Manufacturing	221,000	220,700	211,500	300	0.14%	9,500	4.49%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	347,300	348,700	342,500	-1,400	-0.40%	4,800	1.40%
Information	26,400	26,100	25,700	300	1.15%	700	2.72%
Financial Activities	94,100	95,100	94,900	-1,000	-1.05%	-800	-0.84%
Professional and Business Services	227,400	223,500	222,000	3,900	1.74%	5,400	2.43%
Education and Health Services	220,200	215,400	216,200	4,800	2.23%	4,000	1.85%
Leisure and Hospitality	199,000	196,300	195,000	2,700	1.38%	4,000	2.05%
Government	344,900	336,800	343,600	8,100	2.40%	1,300	0.38%

Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

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

INDUSTRY TITLE	February 2012	January 2012	February 2011	January 2012 to February 2012		February 2011 to February 2012	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	1,826,800	1,808,900	1,798,800	17,900	0.99%	28,000	1.56%
Anderson MSA	57,000	57,600	59,000	-600	-1.04%	-2,000	-3.39%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	295,100	294,500	288,800	600	0.20%	6,300	2.18%
Columbia MSA	349,600	346,300	342,600	3,300	0.95%	7,000	2.04%
Florence MSA	82,500	82,500	79,900	0	0.00%	2,600	3.25%
Greenville MSA	303,500	301,700	299,000	1,800	0.60%	4,500	1.51%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	107,700	107,000	102,700	700	0.65%	5,000	4.87%
Spartanburg MSA	117,600	116,900	114,800	700	0.60%	2,800	2.44%
Sumter MSA	36,700	36,400	36,800	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	February 2012				January 2012				February 2011				
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	
Marion County	↓	12,048	9,752	2,296	19.1	11,816	9,538	2,278	19.3	12,107	9,538	2,569	21.2
Allendale County	↑	3,340	2,749	591	17.7	3,252	2,679	573	17.6	3,270	2,685	585	17.9
Marlboro County	↓	11,619	9,677	1,942	16.7	11,415	9,441	1,974	17.3	11,630	9,470	2,160	18.6
Barnwell County	↓	8,483	7,181	1,302	15.3	8,344	7,006	1,338	16.0	8,475	7,162	1,313	15.5
Union County	↓	11,455	9,742	1,713	15.0	11,203	9,497	1,706	15.2	11,658	9,704	1,954	16.8
Bamberg County	↓	6,173	5,273	900	14.6	6,017	5,120	897	14.9	6,345	5,408	937	14.8
Dillon County	↓	13,235	11,320	1,915	14.5	12,923	11,023	1,900	14.7	13,238	11,089	2,149	16.2
Chester County	↓	14,535	12,445	2,090	14.4	14,367	12,157	2,210	15.4	14,881	12,346	2,535	17.0
Clarendon County	↓	12,441	10,660	1,781	14.3	12,259	10,433	1,826	14.9	12,457	10,466	1,991	16.0
McCormick County	↓	3,346	2,891	455	13.6	3,284	2,814	470	14.3	3,476	2,922	554	15.9
Orangeburg County	↓	41,017	35,503	5,514	13.4	40,036	34,495	5,541	13.8	41,310	35,455	5,855	14.2
Fairfield County	↑	11,029	9,564	1,465	13.3	10,819	9,398	1,421	13.1	10,811	9,293	1,518	14.0
Williamsburg County	↓	16,222	14,073	2,149	13.2	15,925	13,747	2,178	13.7	15,766	13,521	2,245	14.2
Hampton County	↑	7,753	6,749	1,004	12.9	7,523	6,560	963	12.8	7,742	6,598	1,144	14.8
Lee County	↓	8,212	7,176	1,036	12.6	8,084	7,039	1,045	12.9	8,096	6,985	1,111	13.7
Cherokee County	↓	24,828	21,756	3,072	12.4	24,389	21,173	3,216	13.2	25,134	21,691	3,443	13.7
Horry County	↓	124,388	109,138	15,250	12.3	123,599	107,391	16,208	13.1	121,173	103,701	17,472	14.4
Chesterfield County	↓	18,723	16,437	2,286	12.2	18,453	16,049	2,404	13.0	18,780	16,070	2,710	14.4
Lancaster County	↓	30,639	26,894	3,745	12.2	30,192	26,231	3,961	13.1	31,328	26,726	4,602	14.7
Colleton County	↓	17,170	15,096	2,074	12.1	16,837	14,730	2,107	12.5	16,903	14,618	2,285	13.5
Darlington County	↑	30,835	27,417	3,418	11.1	30,301	27,176	3,125	10.3	29,960	26,331	3,629	12.1
Georgetown County	↓	29,759	26,577	3,182	10.7	29,145	25,911	3,234	11.1	28,963	25,258	3,705	12.8
Greenwood County	-	30,797	27,490	3,307	10.7	29,897	26,686	3,211	10.7	31,037	27,467	3,570	11.5
Sumter County	↑	44,728	39,942	4,786	10.7	44,147	39,465	4,682	10.6	44,854	39,639	5,215	11.6
Abbeville County	-	10,685	9,551	1,134	10.6	10,438	9,330	1,108	10.6	11,100	9,698	1,402	12.6
Calhoun County	↓	6,803	6,079	724	10.6	6,706	5,973	733	10.9	6,630	5,906	724	10.9
York County	↓	111,026	99,305	11,721	10.6	111,843	97,828	14,015	12.5	115,334	97,485	17,849	15.5
Florence County	↓	63,043	56,593	6,450	10.2	62,604	56,096	6,508	10.4	61,672	54,352	7,320	11.9
Anderson County	↑	82,649	74,513	8,136	9.8	81,620	74,295	7,325	9.0	84,262	75,406	8,856	10.5
Laurens County	↑	30,975	27,980	2,995	9.7	30,427	27,612	2,815	9.3	30,849	27,355	3,494	11.3
Edgefield County	-	11,145	10,073	1,072	9.6	11,086	10,017	1,069	9.6	11,218	10,199	1,019	9.1
Spartanburg County	↑	133,610	120,933	12,677	9.5	131,532	119,143	12,389	9.4	131,492	117,331	14,161	10.8
Oconee County	-	31,102	28,182	2,920	9.4	30,353	27,506	2,847	9.4	31,111	27,726	3,385	10.9
Jasper County	↑	10,507	9,544	963	9.2	10,153	9,276	877	8.6	9,892	8,833	1,059	10.7
Newberry County	↓	18,309	16,648	1,661	9.1	17,850	16,208	1,642	9.2	18,324	16,408	1,916	10.5
Pickens County	↑	58,658	53,590	5,068	8.6	57,792	52,884	4,908	8.5	57,548	52,393	5,155	9.0
Aiken County	↓	74,851	68,512	6,339	8.5	74,917	68,127	6,790	9.1	76,209	69,363	6,846	9.0
Berkeley County	↑	84,636	77,409	7,227	8.5	83,728	76,657	7,071	8.4	82,808	75,190	7,618	9.2
Kershaw County	↑	29,758	27,236	2,522	8.5	29,201	26,762	2,439	8.4	29,430	26,463	2,967	10.1
Richland County	↑	182,583	167,385	15,198	8.3	179,032	164,473	14,559	8.1	178,880	162,634	16,246	9.1
Saluda County	↓	9,111	8,378	733	8.0	8,982	8,232	750	8.4	9,023	8,140	883	9.8
Beaufort County	↑	64,355	59,274	5,081	7.9	62,466	57,611	4,855	7.8	60,537	54,859	5,678	9.4
Dorchester County	↑	68,545	63,293	5,252	7.7	67,537	62,678	4,859	7.2	67,156	61,479	5,677	8.5
Charleston County	↑	176,538	163,273	13,265	7.5	174,626	161,686	12,940	7.4	173,324	158,593	14,731	8.5
Lexington County	↑	134,310	124,562	9,748	7.3	131,503	122,395	9,108	6.9	131,518	121,027	10,491	8.0
Greenville County	↑	225,866	209,547	16,319	7.2	222,391	206,786	15,605	7.0	223,816	204,865	18,951	8.5
Charleston MSA	↑	329,718	303,975	25,743	7.8	325,892	301,021	24,871	7.6	323,288	295,262	28,026	8.7
Columbia MSA	↑	373,595	343,204	30,391	8.1	366,242	337,233	29,009	7.9	366,293	333,463	32,830	9.0
Florence MSA	↑	93,878	84,010	9,868	10.5	92,905	83,272	9,633	10.4	91,632	80,683	10,949	11.9
Greenville MSA	↑	315,499	291,117	24,382	7.7	310,610	287,282	23,328	7.5	312,213	284,613	27,600	8.8
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,157,849	1,961,103	196,746	9.1	2,152,122	1,951,239	200,883	9.3	2,153,963	1,928,544	225,419	10.5

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 =