INSIGHTS

December 2010 — **S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce**

Economic Indicators

December 2010	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	153,690,000	2,161,800
Employed	139,206,000	1,929,800
Unemployed	14,485,000	232,000
Unemployment Rate	9.4%	10.7%

Average Hours & Earnings

Manufacturing	United States	S.C.
Avg. Weekly Earnings	$ 954.82	$ 711.90
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	42.4
Avg. Hourly Wages	$ 23.46	$ 16.79

Job Growth (Year Over Year)

	% Change
Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville MSA	1.96%
Columbia MSA	0.46%
Greenville MSA	0.65%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	2010	2009
U.S. Participation Rate	64.3%	64.7%
S.C. Participation Rate	60.8%	61.7%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2010	2009
U.S. Population Ratio	58.3%	58.2%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.3%	54.2%

Taxable Sales

November data, most current available	2010	2009
S.C. Net Taxable Sales	$ 4.49 B	$ 3.89 B

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	1.5%

In the News

A new tool, Palmetto Workforce Connections, has been developed to provide workforce employment news.

View the S.C. Employment Situation Report.

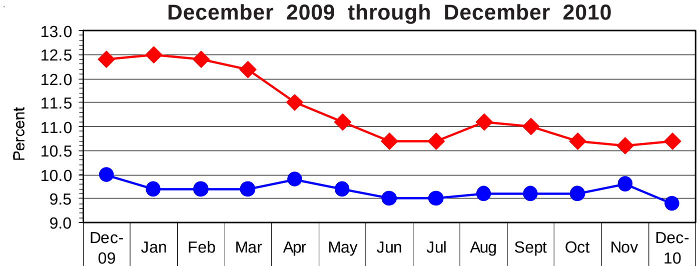
Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment
4,394	2,783	Rate +0.1%

Employment on the Rise

South Carolina continues to show improvement in employment with four consecutive months of growth. Estimates taken from December 2009, show that the state has experienced eight months of increased employment with 26,900 more people going back to work. Factors driving this improvement over the year are gradual increases in the Employment Services (+10,100), Health Care & Social Assistance (+5,900), and Manufacturing (+5,000) industries.

The seasonally adjusted state unemployment rate increased slightly to 10.7% in December from a rate of 10.6% in November due to more people entering the workforce. Looking at the past year, the unemployment rate has dropped 1.8%, indicating movement in the right direction.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates
December 2009 through December 2010



	Dec-09	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec-10
SC	12.4	12.5	12.4	12.2	11.5	11.1	10.7	10.7	11.1	11.0	10.7	10.6	10.7
US	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.8	9.4

The state will continue to see improvement going forward; however, the pace of improvement will be very gradual, due to "headwinds" in the state's economy. Higher petroleum prices may affect consumers' ability to spend in other areas that impact economic growth, thus affecting business hiring. State and local governments will remain under pressure as budgets shrink due to declining tax revenue. Additionally, industries associated with the housing market will continue to be challenged due to steady foreclosure activity. As people become encouraged by job prospects, the labor force will continue to increase as it has over the past few months. This will place upward pressure on the unemployment rate for 2011.

Regional Changes in Unemployment Rates

States	Dec. 2010	Nov. 2010	% Change	Dec. 2009	% Change
Florida	12.0	12.0	0.0	11.7	0.3
South Carolina	**10.7**	**10.6**	**0.1**	**12.4**	**-1.7**
Georgia	10.2	10.0	0.2	10.3	-0.1
North Carolina	9.8	9.7	0.1	10.9	-1.1
Tennessee	9.4	9.4	0.0	10.7	-1.3
Virginia	6.7	6.7	0.0	6.8	-0.1

Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2009 benchmark.

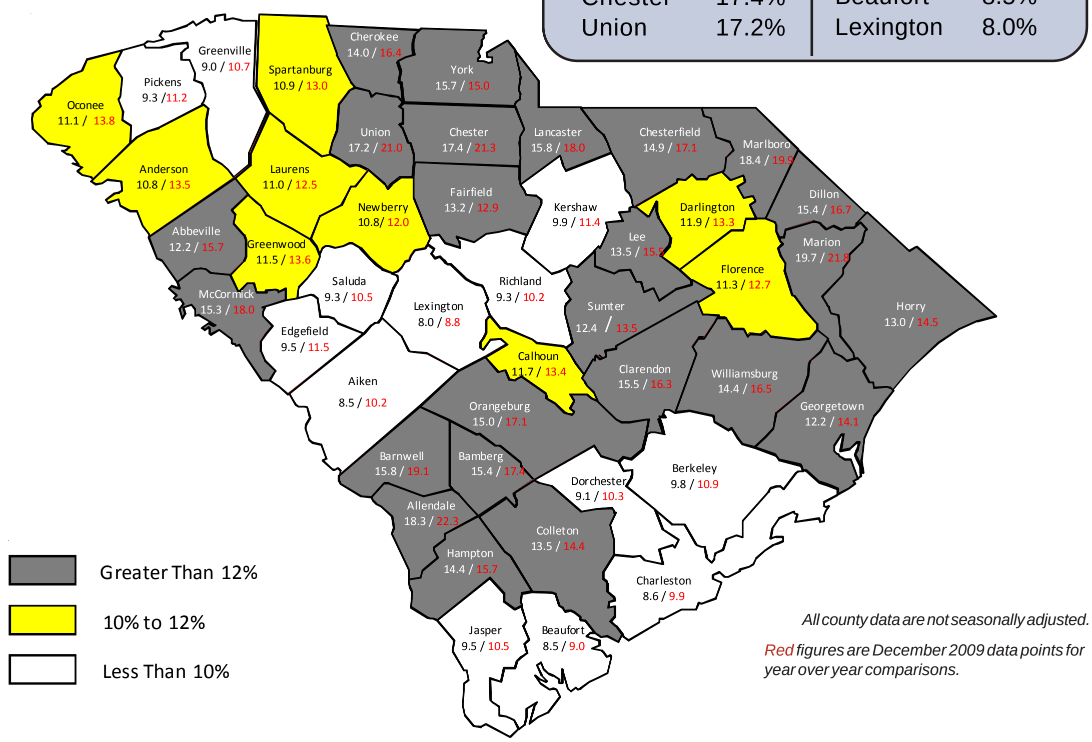
State Unemployment Rates	
Nevada	14.5
California	12.5
Florida	12.0
Michigan	11.7
Rhode Island	11.5
South Carolina	**10.7**
Oregon	10.6
Kentucky	10.3
Georgia	10.2
Mississippi	10.1
North Carolina	9.8
D.C.	9.7
Ohio	9.6
West Virginia	9.6
Idaho	9.5
Indiana	9.5
Missouri	9.5
Arizona	9.4
Tennessee	9.4
Illinois	9.3
Washington	9.3
Alabama	9.1
New Jersey	9.1
Connecticut	9.0
Colorado	8.8
Delaware	8.5
New Mexico	8.5
Pennsylvania	8.5
Texas	8.3
Massachusetts	8.2
New York	8.2
Alaska	8.1
Louisiana	8.0
Arkansas	7.9
Utah	7.5
Wisconsin	7.5
Maryland	7.4
Maine	7.3
Montana	7.2
Minnesota	7.0
Kansas	6.8
Oklahoma	6.8
Virginia	6.7
Hawaii	6.4
Wyoming	6.4
Iowa	6.3
Vermont	5.8
New Hampshire	5.5
South Dakota	4.6
Nebraska	4.4
North Dakota	3.8

South Carolina Unemployment Rates by County

Over the course of a year, the size of the labor force, the levels of employment and unemployment, and other measures of labor market activity undergo fluctuations due to seasonal events including changes in weather, harvests, major holidays, and school schedules. The county unemployment data reflects these events while the state unemployment data is seasonally adjusted to minimize these affects.

For December, county data reflects increases in unemployment rates of several counties. Marion County experienced the highest rate at 19.7%, and Lexington County estimates were at 8.0%. However, since December 2009, 44 of 46 counties have seen rate declines.

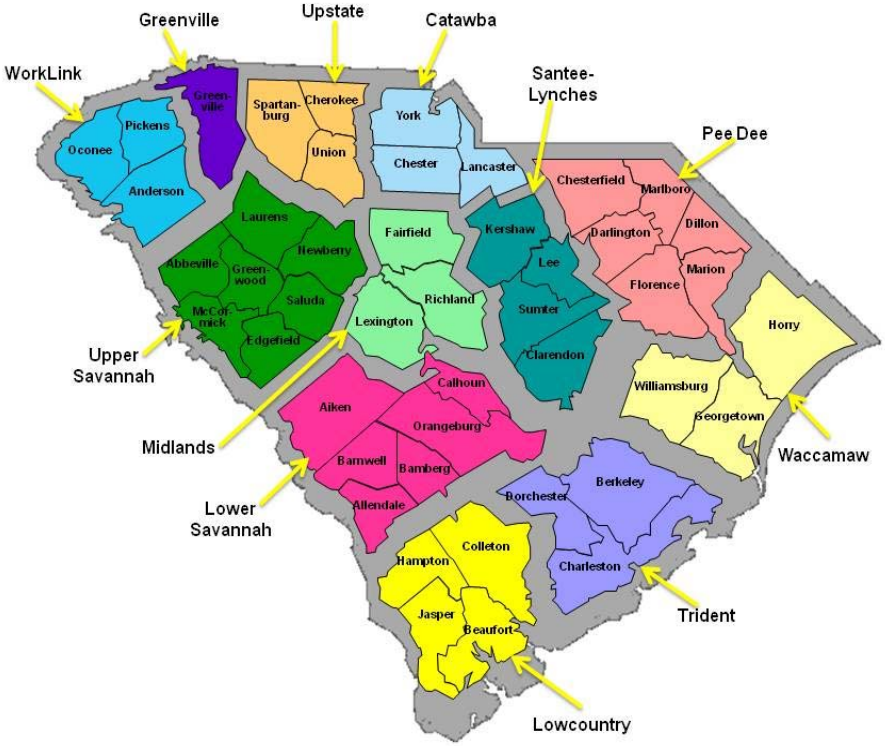
Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	19.7%	Greenville	9.0%
Marlboro	18.4%	Charleston	8.6%
Allendale	18.3%	Aiken	8.5%
Chester	17.4%	Beaufort	8.5%
Union	17.2%	Lexington	8.0%



Areas	Unemployed December 2010	Unemployed December 2009	Areas	Unemployed December 2010	Unemployed December 2009	Areas	Unemployed December 2010	Unemployed December 2009
Abbeville	1,328	1,761	Darlington	3,779	4,148	Lee	1,128	1,314
Aiken	6,440	7,808	Dillon	2,176	2,372	Lexington	10,660	11,675
Allendale	603	764	Dorchester	5,864	6,527	Marion	2,585	2,888
Anderson	8,927	11,389	Edgefield	1,060	1,289	Marlboro	2,202	2,424
Bamberg	989	1,130	Fairfield	1,475	1,410	Mccormick	518	625
Barnwell	1,448	1,788	Florence	7,307	8,091	Newberry	1,964	2,192
Beaufort	5,579	5,914	Georgetown	3,784	4,419	Oconee	3,440	4,353
Berkeley	7,920	8,753	Greenville	19,639	23,527	Orangeburg	6,217	7,173
Calhoun	797	926	Greenwood	3,563	4,252	Pickens	5,297	6,396
Charleston	15,259	17,335	Hampton	1,148	1,264	Richland	16,721	18,410
Cherokee	3,512	4,197	Horry	16,607	18,317	Saluda	835	938
Chester	2,647	3,344	Jasper	993	1,090	Spartanburg	14,482	17,482
Chesterfield	2,797	3,249	Kershaw	2,951	3,417	Sumter	5,356	5,898
Clarendon	2,012	2,114	Lancaster	4,754	5,475	Union	2,044	2,578
Colleton	2,367	2,523	Laurens	3,558	4,032	Williamsburg	2,302	2,661
						York	17,768	16,680

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs)

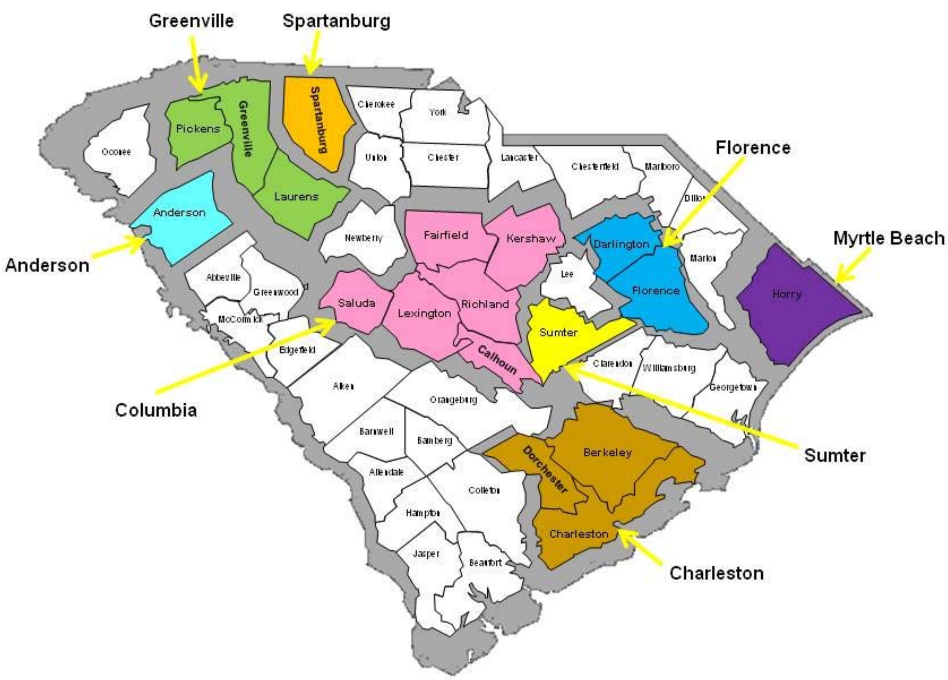
December 2010



Catawba WIA www.catawbacog.org	15.9%
Greenville WIA www.greenvillewib.com	9.0%
Lowcountry WIA www.lowcountryworkforce.org	9.9%
Lower Savannah WIA www.lswia.org	11.5%
Midlands WIA www.midlandsworkforce.org	8.9%
Pee Dee WIA www.peedeewib.org	13.5%
Santee-Lynches WIA www.slworkforcedev.org	12.1%
Trident WIA www.toscc.org	9.0%
Upper Savannah WIA www.us1stops.com	11.1%
Upstate WIA www.upstatewib.org	11.8%
Waccamaw WIA www.wrcog.org	12.9%
Worklink WIA www.worklinkweb.com	10.4%

Unemployment Rates for Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)

December 2010



Anderson MSA	10.8%
Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville MSA	9.0%
Columbia MSA	9.0%
Florence MSA	11.5%
Greenville MSA	9.2%
Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway MSA	13.0%
Spartanburg MSA	10.9%
Sumter MSA	12.4%

Catawba WIA Top 20 Employers

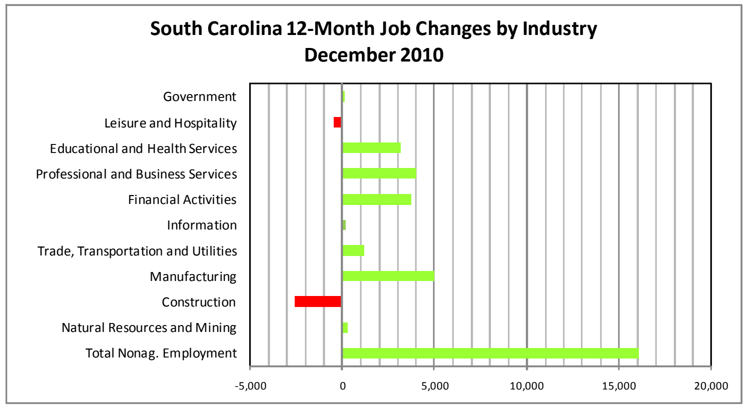
- Rock Hill School District #3
- Wells Fargo & Company, Inc.
- Lancaster County School District
- Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.
- Amisub of South Carolina, Inc.
- Fort Mill School District #4
- Duke Energy Corporation
- CitiFinancial, Inc.
- Clover School District #2
- Winthrop University
- Bowater Incorporated
- Ross Dress for Less, Inc.
- County of York
- City of Rock Hill
- York School District - Districtwide
- Chester County School District
- DMSI Staffing, LLC
- Bi-Lo, Inc.
- Rock Hill Telephone Company, Inc.
- Lancaster County

Source: QCEW data

South Carolina Industry Direction

December 2010

South Carolina's job count was relatively flat over November's level. Anderson and Florence MSAs reflected gains while the Myrtle Beach area experienced losses due to seasonal factors in the Leisure & Hospitality Industries; Charleston was also affected by the seasonal influences which historically continue until March of each year. The net increase in job estimates from a year ago was 16,100. Employment Services (+10,100), Health Care & Social Assistance (+5,900), and Manufacturing (+5,000) accounted for the majority of the gains.



Temporary Help Service jobs, a subset of the Employment Services Industry, make up about 85 to 90% of the industry sector. In addition to reducing labor costs and overhead expenses, this increase in Employment Service jobs reflects the employer's desire to service customers, while seeking confirmation of firm demand for their products and services. This type of hiring activity may be a trend going forward in South Carolina as well as across the nation. With the loss of approximately 128,000 jobs since the recession began in December 2007, the state is welcoming the positive new job announcements seen over the past 12 months.

Industry	December 2010	December 2009	Net Change
Total Nonag. Employment	**1,828,800**	**1,812,700**	**16,100**
Natural Resources and Mining	4,400	4,100	300
Construction	79,900	82,500	-2,600
Manufacturing	212,500	207,500	5,000
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	351,200	350,000	1,200
Information	28,100	27,900	200
Financial Activities	103,800	100,100	3,700
Professional and Business Services	212,700	208,700	4,000
Educational and Health Services	213,700	210,500	3,200
Leisure and Hospitality	194,200	194,700	-500
Government	358,900	358,800	100

Unemployment Initial Claims Climb

S.C. Unemployment Insurance Activities	
Total Initial Claims	32,763
Regular UI Benefits Paid	$38,600,230
UI Benefits Exhausted	6,054
Avg. Duration Benefits Paid (wks.)	17.0
Avg. Wkly. Benefits Amount	$231.58

Annually, we see a decrease in employment post holidays across the state. For the month of December, this change created an increase in unemployment claims of 6,649 (25.5%). In contrast to December 2009, claims have decreased by 9,673 (22.8%).