

# INSIGHTS

May 2011

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

## Economic Indicators

May 2011		
	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	153,693,000	2,155,120
Employed	139,779,000	1,939,782
Unemployed	13,914,000	215,338
Unemployment Rate	9.1%	10.0%

## Average Hours & Earnings

Manufacturing	United States	S.C.
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 961.41	\$ 705.50
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.6	42.5
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.68	\$ 16.60

## Job Growth (Year Over Year)

	% Change
Charleston MSA	1.04%
Columbia MSA	-0.60%
Greenville MSA	0.05%
Myrtle Beach MSA	4.12%

## Labor Force Participation Rate

	2011	2010
U.S. Participation Rate	64.2%	64.9%
S.C. Participation Rate	60.6%	61.4%

## Employment to Population Ratio

	2011	2010
U.S. Population Ratio	58.4%	58.7%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.6%	54.6%

## Taxable Sales

	2011	2010
S.C. Net Taxable Sales	\$ 4.841 B	\$ 4.564 B


*April data, most current available*

## United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	3.6%
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## In the News

Palmetto Workforce Connections has been developed to provide workforce employment news.



**Palmetto Workforce Connections**

Up-to-the-minute information about SC's workforce!

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Employment  
2,586

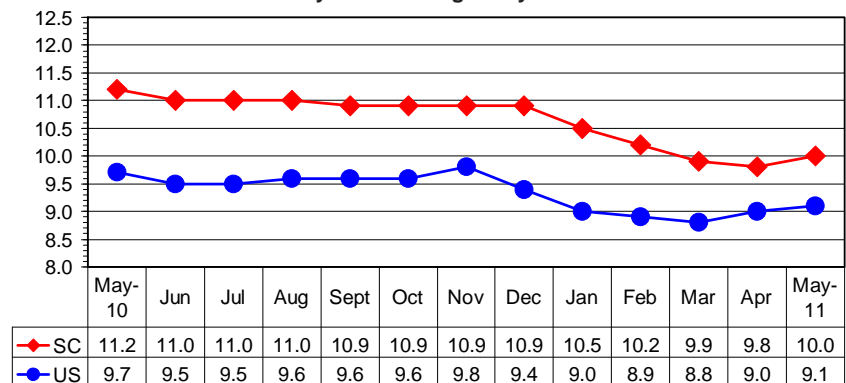
Unemployment  
5,355

Unemployment  
Rate 0.2%

## Unemployment Rate Up Slightly

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly from 9.8% in April to 10.0% in May. Since May 2010, the rate has decreased 1.2%. There were 215,338 people unemployed in the state this month—a decline of 26,172 since May 2010.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates  
May 2010 through May 2011



After eight months of steady increases, employment faltered in May, decreasing by 2,586. Compared to year-ago figures, employment has advanced by approximately 16,000. Due to more people seeking employment during May, including recent graduates, the labor force level rose to 2,155,120 over April's level by 2,700.

Regional Changes in Unemployment Rates

States	May 2011	Apr. 2011	% Change	May 2010	% Change
Florida	10.6	10.8	-0.2	11.3	-0.7
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Georgia	9.8	9.8	0.0	10.0	-0.2
North Carolina	9.7	9.7	0.0	10.8	-1.1
Tennessee	9.7	9.6	0.1	9.8	-0.1
Virginia	6.0	6.1	-0.1	7.0	-1.0



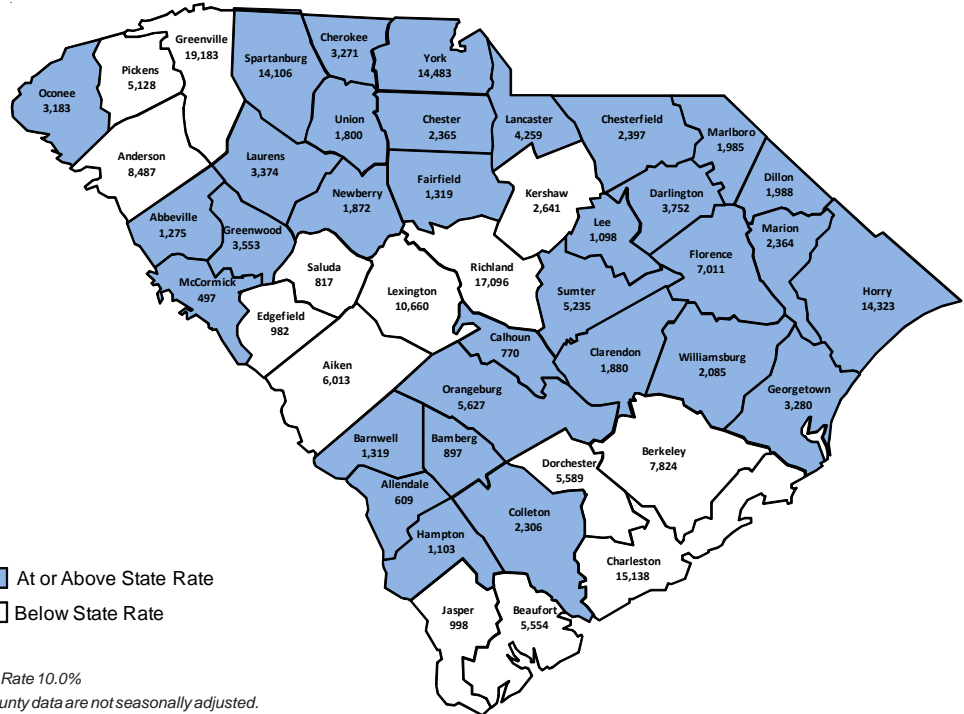
**Insights** is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2010 benchmark.

## May Unemployment Rates by County

Comparing April to May, 44 counties experienced rate increases, while two counties saw rate declines. York County registered the largest decline of 0.8%. Conversely, Allendale County had the largest increase in the unemployment rate at 2.5%. Over the year, 25 counties have seen declines, seven with no change, and 14 had increases. Horry, Anderson, and Charleston counties have seen the largest improvement in employment. Aiken, Richland, and Orangeburg counties have seen the largest declines.

With summer approaching, counties where tourist-related activities provide a larger impact on the local economies should see improving conditions.

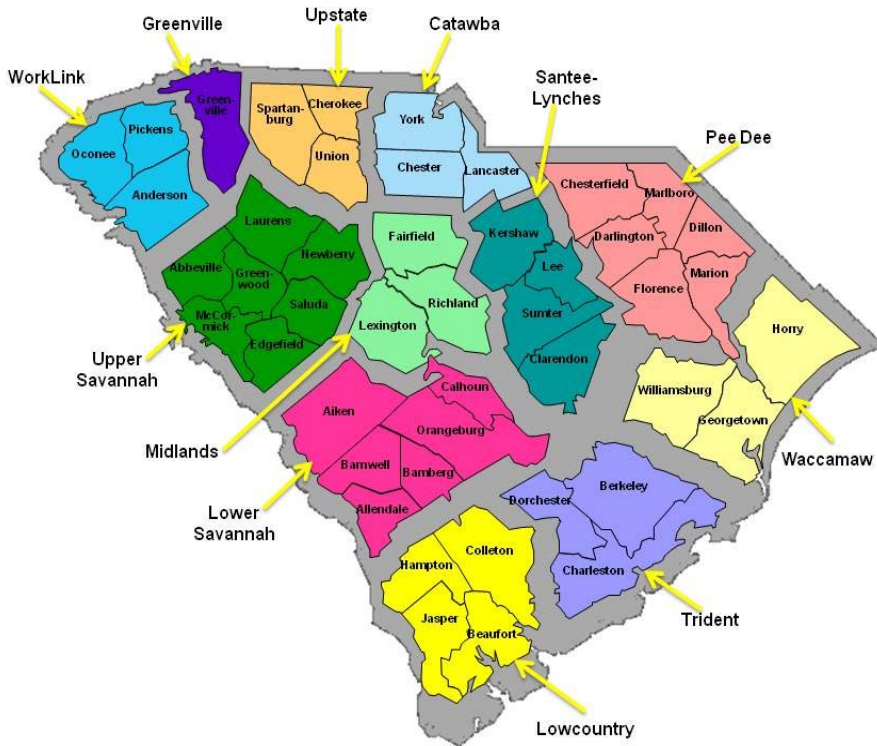
Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	19.0%	Beaufort	8.5%
Allendale	18.4%	Charleston	8.5%
Marlboro	17.3%	Greenville	8.5%
Chester	16.2%	Lexington	8.0%
Union	16.1%	Aiken	7.9%



State	Unemployment Rates
Nevada	12.1
California	11.7
Rhode Island	10.9
Florida	10.6
Michigan	10.3
Mississippi	10.3
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>10.0</b>
D.C.	9.8
Georgia	9.8
Kentucky	9.8
North Carolina	9.7
Tennessee	9.7
Alabama	9.6
Idaho	9.4
New Jersey	9.4
Oregon	9.3
Arizona	9.1
Connecticut	9.1
Washington	9.1
Illinois	8.9
Missouri	8.9
Colorado	8.7
Ohio	8.6
West Virginia	8.6
Indiana	8.2
Louisiana	8.2
Delaware	8.0
Texas	8.0
New York	7.9
Arkansas	7.8
Maine	7.7
Massachusetts	7.6
Alaska	7.4
Pennsylvania	7.4
Wisconsin	7.4
Montana	7.3
Utah	7.3
New Mexico	6.9
Maryland	6.8
Kansas	6.6
Minnesota	6.6
Hawaii	6.0
Iowa	6.0
Virginia	6.0
Wyoming	6.0
Vermont	5.4
Oklahoma	5.3
New Hampshire	4.8
South Dakota	4.8
Nebraska	4.1
North Dakota	3.2

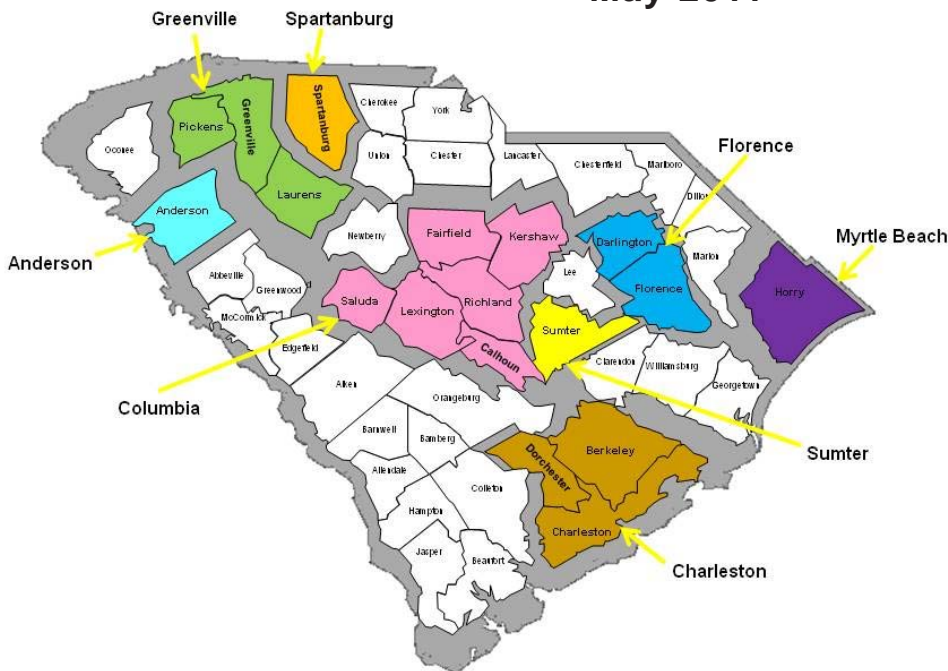
Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed	
	May 2011	May 2010		May 2011	May 2010		May 2011	May 2010
Abbeville	1,275	1,397	Darlington	3,752	3,691	Lee	1,098	1,100
Aiken	6,013	5,905	Dillon	1,988	2,161	Lexington	10,660	10,213
Allendale	609	618	Dorchester	5,589	5,581	Marion	2,364	2,492
Anderson	8,487	9,265	Edgefield	982	948	Marlboro	1,985	2,375
Bamberg	897	952	Fairfield	1,319	1,418	McCormick	497	498
Barnwell	1,319	1,492	Florence	7,011	6,845	Newberry	1,872	1,914
Beaufort	5,554	5,226	Georgetown	3,280	3,528	Oconee	3,183	3,535
Berkeley	7,824	7,740	Greenville	19,183	20,691	Orangeburg	5,627	5,717
Calhoun	770	703	Greenwood	3,553	3,578	Pickens	5,128	5,441
Charleston	15,138	15,452	Hampton	1,103	1,050	Richland	17,096	17,133
Cherokee	3,271	3,557	Horry	14,323	14,586	Saluda	817	819
Chester	2,365	2,707	Jasper	998	951	Spartanburg	14,106	14,906
Chesterfield	2,397	2,956	Kershaw	2,641	2,919	Sumter	5,235	5,249
Clarendon	1,880	1,834	Lancaster	4,259	4,980	Union	1,800	2,045
Colleton	2,306	2,182	Laurens	3,374	3,529	Williamsburg	2,085	2,133
						York	14,483	17,727

## Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) May 2011



<b>Catawba WIA</b> <a href="http://www.catawbacog.org">www.catawbacog.org</a>	13.4%
<b>Greenville WIA</b> <a href="http://www.greenvillewib.com">www.greenvillewib.com</a>	8.5%
<b>Lowcountry WIA</b> <a href="http://www.lowcountryworkforce.org">www.lowcountryworkforce.org</a>	9.8%
<b>Lower Savannah WIA</b> <a href="http://www.lswia.org">www.lswia.org</a>	10.8%
<b>Midlands WIA</b> <a href="http://www.midlandsworkforce.org">www.midlandsworkforce.org</a>	8.9%
<b>Pee Dee WIA</b> <a href="http://www.peedeewib.org">www.peedeewib.org</a>	12.9%
<b>Santee-Lynches WIA</b> <a href="http://www.slworkforcedev.org">www.slworkforcedev.org</a>	11.3%
<b>Trident WIA</b> <a href="http://www.toscc.org">www.toscc.org</a>	8.7%
<b>Upper Savannah WIA</b> <a href="http://www.us1stops.com">www.us1stops.com</a>	10.7%
<b>Upstate WIA</b> <a href="http://www.upstatawib.org">www.upstatawib.org</a>	11.3%
<b>Waccamaw WIA</b> <a href="http://www.wrcog.org">www.wrcog.org</a>	10.7%
<b>Worklink WIA</b> <a href="http://www.worklinkweb.com">www.worklinkweb.com</a>	9.6%

## Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) May 2011



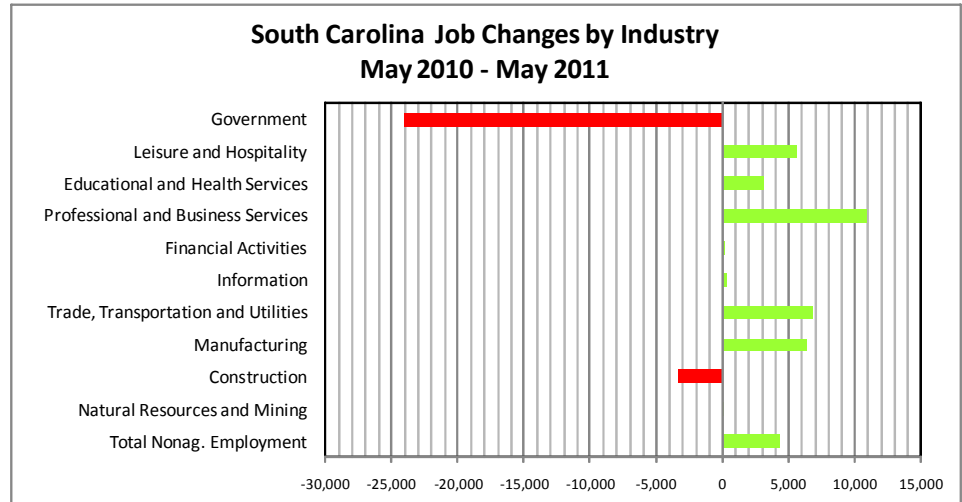
<b>Anderson MSA</b>	9.8%
<b>Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville MSA</b>	8.7%
<b>Columbia MSA</b>	9.0%
<b>Florence MSA</b>	11.4%
<b>Greenville MSA</b>	8.8%
<b>Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway MSA</b>	10.4%
<b>Spartanburg MSA</b>	10.5%
<b>Sumter MSA</b>	11.4%

### South Carolina Industry Direction

South Carolina’s nonfarm job count (not seasonally adjusted) increased 5,200 over April’s level. Industries with the largest over-the-month job gains were primarily in Leisure & Hospitality (+6,600), Retail Trade (+3,000), and Manufacturing (+1,200). Focusing on Manufacturing, the state’s average weekly manufacturing hours worked increased 0.5 hours over the past year to approximately 43.0 hours—an increase of almost 1.2%. Average hourly manufacturing earnings are up 3.3% as compared to a year ago.

Of the state’s MSAs, Charleston had the largest gain (+3,400), followed by Myrtle Beach (+3,300), and Columbia (+1,100) from April to May. Florence (+300) registered a smaller gain, while Greenville was relatively flat. On the other hand, contractions were noted in Spartanburg, Sumter, and Anderson.

Over the year, nonfarm jobs increased an estimated 4,400. Since reaching a low point in January of 2010, the state has added approximately 4.12% more jobs to the payrolls. These gains can be attributed to hiring in the Private Sector as it has seen an increase of 28,000 over the year. Administrative & Support Services (+10,400); Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+6,900); and Manufacturing (+6,400) accounted for the majority of those gains over the year. Federal, state and local government saw job declines (-24,000). Looking toward the summer months, we expect tourism-related activities to increase as local Government employment tightens due to schools reducing their payrolls during those months.

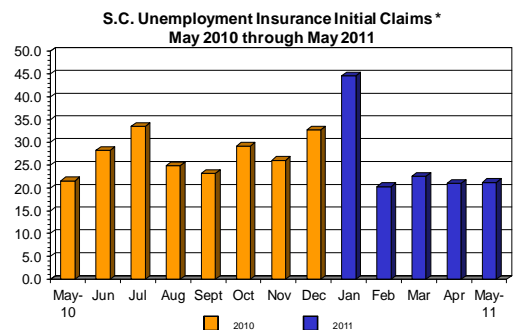


Industry	May 2011	May 2010	Net Change
<b>Total Nonag. Employment</b>	<b>1,833,100</b>	<b>1,828,700</b>	<b>4,400</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,000	100
Construction	76,000	79,300	-3,300
Manufacturing	213,600	207,200	6,400
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	351,000	344,100	6,900
Information	25,800	25,500	300
Financial Activities	98,000	97,800	200
Professional and Business Services	224,000	213,000	11,000
Educational and Health Services	216,300	213,200	3,100
Leisure and Hospitality	220,600	215,000	5,600
Government	336,500	360,500	-24,000

### Initial Unemployment Claims

In May, regular state UI initial claims filed, as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, stood at 19,264, significantly lower than the high reported in January 2009 of 84,103. In fact, regular UI initial claims filed were lower in South Carolina than all other states in the southeast.

Regular UI benefits paid decreased over \$12M from May a year ago, and the average duration of weeks paid dropped 2.6 weeks to 16.1, since the same time last year.



SC Unemployment Activities	
Total Initial Claims*	21,194
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$38,539,022
UI Benefits Exhausted	6,806
Avg. Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	16.1
Avg. Wkly. Benefits Amount	\$239.66

\* All programs