

INSIGHTS

November 2011

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

	United States	SC
Labor Force	153,883,000	2,164,970
Employed	140,580,000	1,951,514
Unemployed	13,303,000	213,456
Unemployment Rate	8.6%	9.9%

Average Hours & Earnings

Manufacturing	United States	SC
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 958.33	\$ 703.90
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.3	42.2
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.78	\$ 16.68

Job Growth (Year over Year)

	% Change
Charleston MSA	1.75%
Columbia MSA	2.53%
Greenville MSA	1.56%
Myrtle Beach MSA	2.47%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	2011	2010
U.S.	64.0%	64.5%
S.C.	60.6%	61.0%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2011	2010
U.S.	58.5%	58.2%
S.C.	54.7%	54.4%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	3.4%
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In the News

Coming Soon!

The 2010 Mass Layoff Statistics Report will provide annual data on tracking South Carolina's unemployed.



View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment
9,777 ↑

Unemployment
14,527 ↓

Unemployment
Rate 0.6% ↓

South Carolina Unemployment Rate Plummets

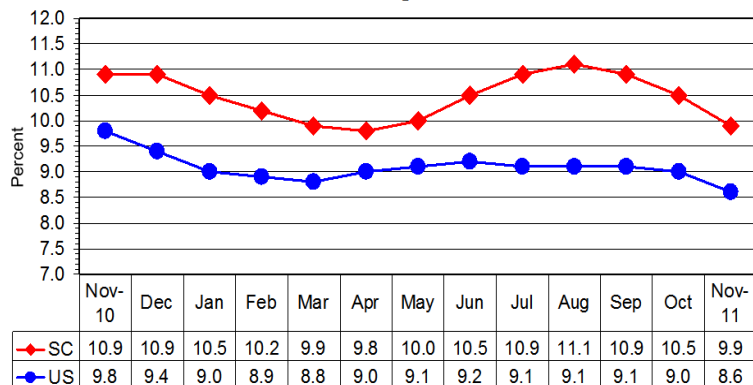
The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 9.9 percent in November, an unprecedented 0.6 percent drop from last month's 10.5 percent rate. This represents the largest monthly drop since 1976, the first year the Bureau of Labor Statistics made the monthly data series available. The national unemployment rate also saw a significant decrease, from 9.0 percent in October to 8.6 percent in November.

The labor force was reduced by 4,750 from October to November; the number of those employed grew by 9,777, and the number of unemployed declined by 14,527. The labor force level was 2,164,970 in November. These figures indicated that some jobseekers have suspended job search activities.

The state saw significant employment increases for three months in a row, with an estimated increase of 24,800 individuals finding jobs since last year.

In the last two months, the unemployment rate fell a full percentage point (from 10.9 to 9.9) on a statewide seasonally adjusted basis. Unemployment levels dropped by nearly 24,000 while employment levels increased by approximately 20,000.

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



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.

November Unemployment Rates by County

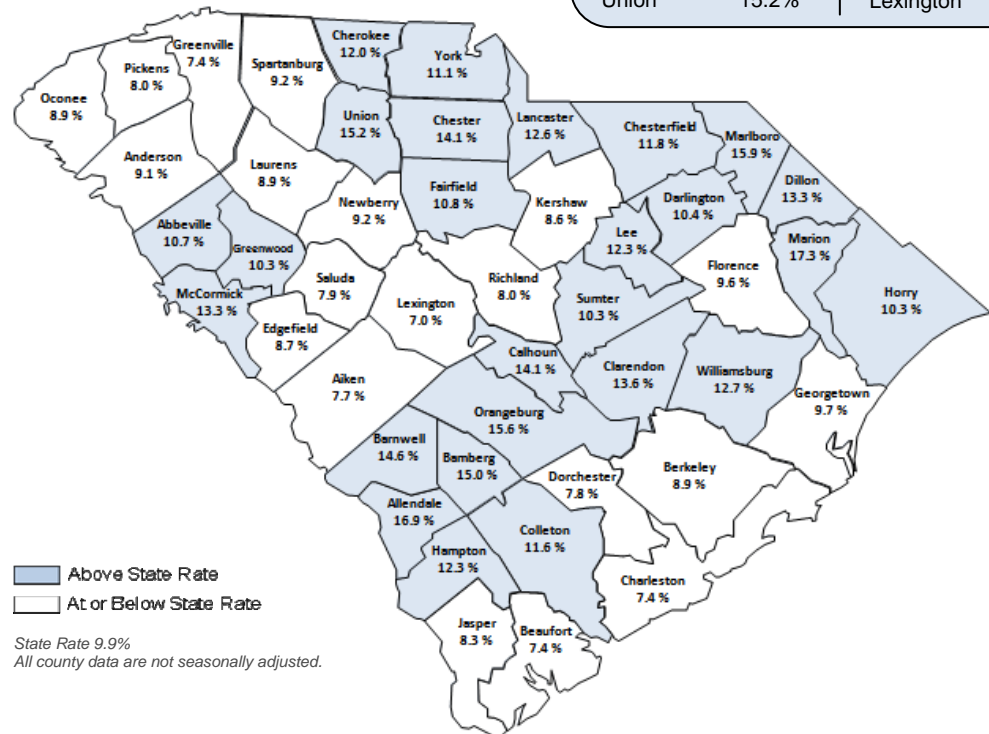
State Unemployment Rates

Nevada	13.0
California	11.3
D.C.	10.6
Mississippi	10.5
Rhode Island	10.5
Florida	10.0
Illinois	10.0
North Carolina	10.0
Georgia	9.9
South Carolina	9.9
Michigan	9.8
Kentucky	9.4
New Jersey	9.1
Oregon	9.1
Tennessee	9.1
Indiana	9.0
Alabama	8.7
Arizona	8.7
Washington	8.7
Idaho	8.5
Ohio	8.5
Connecticut	8.4
Missouri	8.2
Texas	8.1
Arkansas	8.0
Colorado	8.0
New York	8.0
Pennsylvania	7.9
West Virginia	7.9
Delaware	7.6
Alaska	7.3
Wisconsin	7.3
Montana	7.1
Maine	7.0
Massachusetts	7.0
Louisiana	6.9
Maryland	6.9
Hawaii	6.5
Kansas	6.5
New Mexico	6.5
Utah	6.4
Virginia	6.2
Oklahoma	6.1
Minnesota	5.9
Wyoming	5.8
Iowa	5.7
Vermont	5.3
New Hampshire	5.2
South Dakota	4.3
Nebraska	4.1
North Dakota	3.4

Over the month county rate estimates showed declines in 44 of 46 counties across the state. This was the second month that improvements were spread across the state. Both Orangeburg and Calhoun increased.

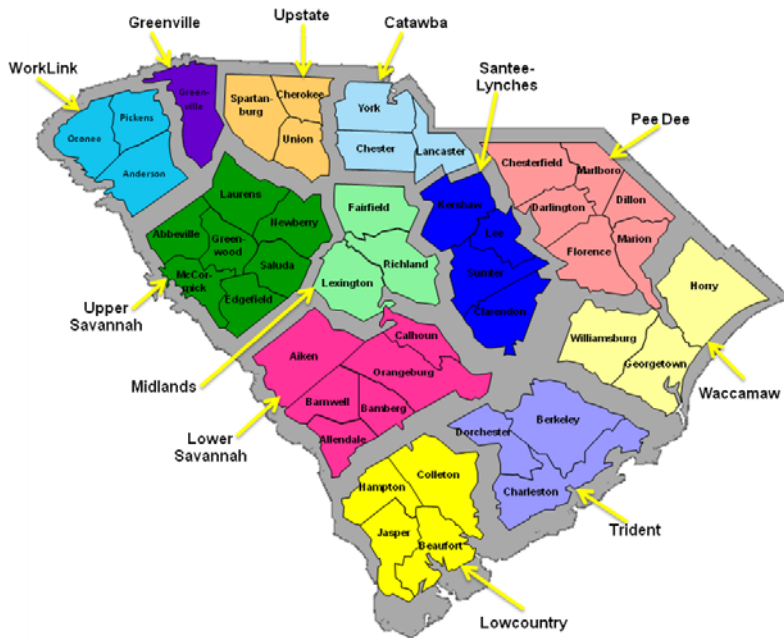
York County saw the largest rate drop over the year (-4.1 percent), primarily due to a declining labor force (-5,475). Richland County had the largest increase in people finding work with 4,150 followed by Horry County (+4,000).

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Marion	17.3%	Aiken	7.7%
Allendale	16.9%	Beaufort	7.4%
Marlboro	15.9%	Charleston	7.4%
Orangeburg	15.6%	Greenville	7.4%
Union	15.2%	Lexington	7.0%



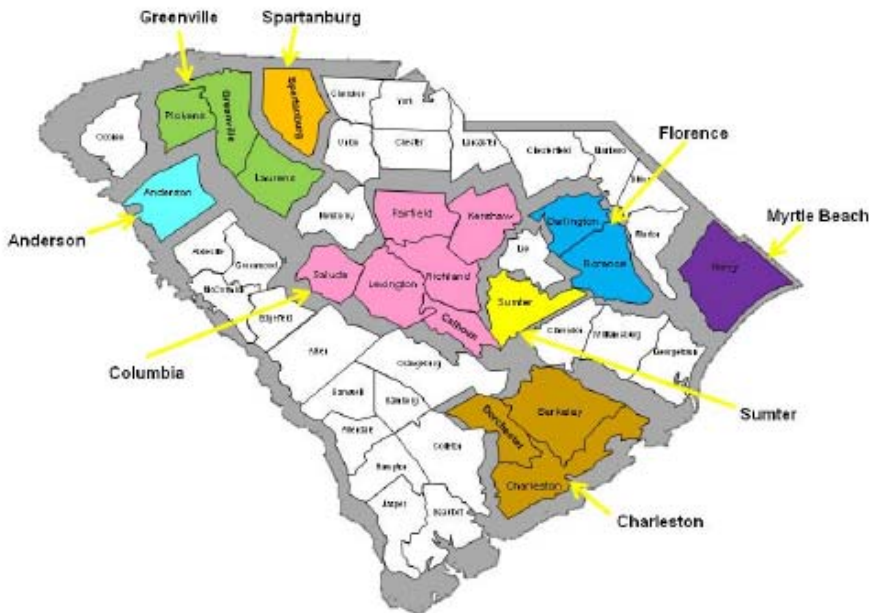
Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed	
	November 2011	November 2010		November 2011	November 2010		November 2011	November 2010
Abbeville	1,156	1,365	Darlington	3,190	3,708	Lee	1,016	1,114
Aiken	5,788	6,500	Dillon	1,816	2,127	Lexington	9,324	10,857
Allendale	562	610	Dorchester	5,019	5,989	Marion	2,113	2,515
Anderson	7,658	9,388	Edgefield	946	1,054	Marlboro	1,803	2,176
Bamberg	969	958	Fairfield	1,156	1,473	McCormick	435	526
Barnwell	1,254	1,443	Florence	6,142	7,240	Newberry	1,668	1,984
Beaufort	4,829	5,731	Georgetown	2,919	3,647	Oconee	2,724	3,383
Berkeley	7,214	8,047	Greenville	16,537	20,212	Orangeburg	6,449	6,301
Calhoun	989	842	Greenwood	3,107	3,578	Pickens	4,559	5,491
Charleston	13,013	15,716	Hampton	972	1,130	Richland	14,433	16,987
Chester	1,994	2,613	Horry	13,476	15,732	Saluda	713	836
Chesterfield	2,162	2,786	Jasper	865	1,028	Spartanburg	12,359	14,716
Clarendon	1,752	1,987	Kershaw	2,554	3,188	Sumter	4,619	5,308
Colleton	2,030	2,342	Lancaster	3,733	4,830	Union	1,697	1,999
			Laurens	2,833	3,595	Williamsburg	2,031	2,242
						York	12,116	17,426

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) November 2011



Catawba WIA	11.7%
www.catawbacog.org	
Greenville WIA	7.4%
www.greenvillewib.com	
Lowcountry WIA	8.6%
www.lowcountryworkforce.org	
Lower Savannah WIA	11.3%
www.lswia.org	
Midlands WIA	7.7%
www.midlandsworkforce.org	
Pee Dee WIA	11.5%
www.peedeewib.org	
Santee-Lynches WIA	10.4%
www.slworkforcedev.org	
Trident WIA	7.8%
www.toscc.org	
Upper Savannah WIA	9.5%
www.us1stops.com	
Upstate WIA	10.0%
www.upstatewib.org	
Waccamaw WIA	10.4%
www.wrcog.org	
Worklink WIA	8.7%
www.worklinkweb.com	

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) November 2011



Anderson MSA	9.1%
Charleston - North	
Charleston - Summerville MSA	7.8%
Columbia MSA	7.9%
Florence MSA	9.9%
Greenville MSA	7.7%
Myrtle Beach - North Myrtle Beach - Conway MSA	10.3%
Spartanburg MSA	9.2%
Sumter MSA	10.3%

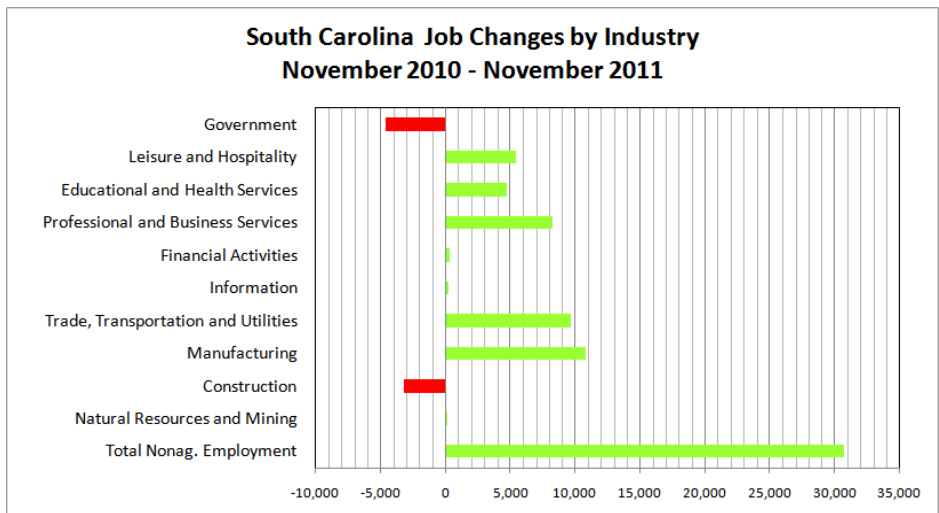
South Carolina Employment Trends

Nonfarm payroll employment grew by 15,000 from October to November, and was up significantly (+30,700) from a year ago. This over-the-year job growth was similar to trends experienced pre-recession. Manufacturing employment increased by 900 from October to November and showed a significant gain of 10,800 from last year. Survey estimates indicated the state's average weekly manufacturing hours decreased by 0.2 over the month.

The industry with the largest month-to-month increase was Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,800), with 7,100 of that increase from Retail Trade. Professional and Business Services (+6,600) had the second largest increase. The expected seasonal decline in Leisure and Hospitality continued with a drop of 3,300 in the past month. The net job gains were estimated at 30,700, a 1.7 percent improvement. Durable Goods Manufacturing, along with Wholesale Trade and Retail Trade, accounted for approximately 54 percent of the increases. Manufacturing has steadily gained an estimated 900 jobs per month over the past year. Forty percent of the job gains were in the Charleston and Columbia MSAs, with modest gains in Spartanburg and Anderson MSAs.

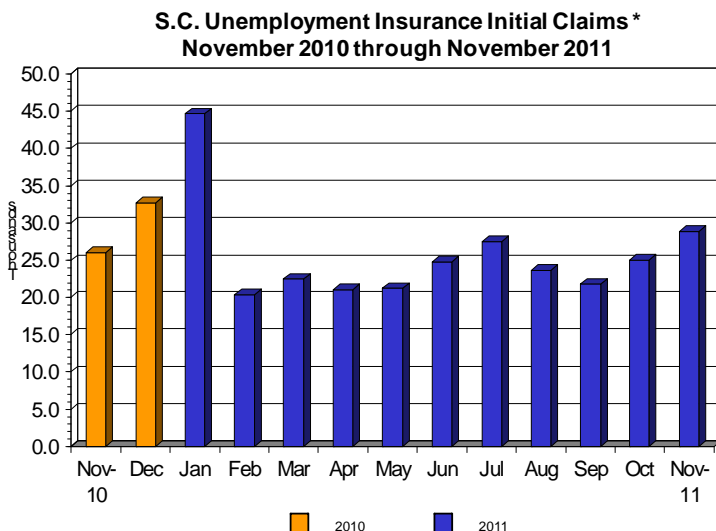
Of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Columbia (+3,200), Charleston (+2,400), Greenville (+1,000), Spartanburg (+800), and Florence (+700) showed job gains. Myrtle Beach (-2,400) continued its seasonal decline. The Sumter MSA showed no change and the Anderson MSA dropped (-500).

Looking forward, gains in Retail Trade are expected to level off and then drop sharply after the holiday season. Tax preparation deadlines will influence the Professional and Business Services sector. In a few months, the state's coastal areas will see the return of warmer weather to kick off the spring tourist season, impacting Leisure and Hospitality.



November Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's unemployment insurance benefits paid in November 2011, showed a significant decline from a year ago, dropping \$6,779,697 (19.9 percent). Also, the average duration of paid benefits fell from 17.1 weeks last November to 15.3 weeks this November.



SC Unemployment Activities

Total Initial Claims*	28,936
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$ 34,029,938
UI Benefits Exhausted	7,228
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	15.3
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$ 238.98

*All Programs

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