

# INSIGHTS

## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### Economic Indicators

December 2011

	United States	SC
Labor Force	153,887,000	2,162,094
Employed	140,790,000	1,955,626
Unemployed	13,097,000	206,468
Unemployment Rate	8.5%	9.5%

### Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 969.17	\$ 721.22
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.5	42.3
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.93	\$ 17.05

### Job Growth (Year over Year)

	% Change
Charleston MSA	1.67%
Columbia MSA	1.36%
Sumter MSA	1.20%
Myrtle Beach MSA	2.36%

### Labor Force Participation Rate

	2011	2010
U.S.	64.0%	64.3%
S.C.	60.5%	61.0%

### Employment to Population Ratio

	2011	2010
U.S.	58.5%	58.3%
S.C.	54.7%	54.4%

### United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	3.0%
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### In the News

#### The Mass Layoff Statistics Report is here!

The 2010 Mass Layoff Statistics Report has been developed to provide annual data on unemployment activity in South Carolina.



**Please note, due to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual benchmarking and revision process, employment and labor force data for January 2012 will not be published until mid-March 2012.**

Employment  
4,307 ↑

Unemployment  
7,534 ↓

Unemployment  
Rate 0.4% ↓

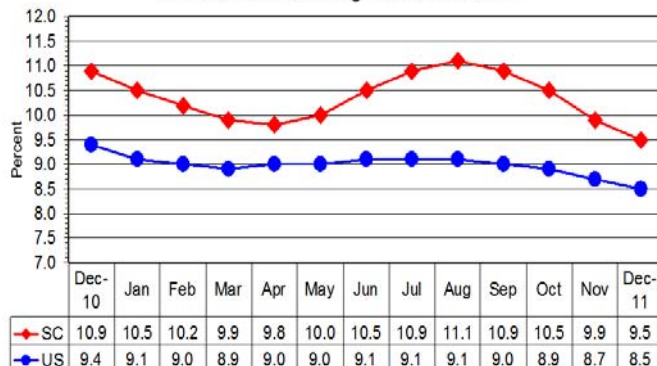
### Unemployment Rate Lowest in Three Years; Employment Highest in 2011

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 9.5 percent in December 2011, a 0.4 percentage point drop from November's 9.9 percent rate. This marked the fourth consecutive monthly rate decline and was down 1.6 percent from 2011's high of 11.1 percent in August. This was the lowest rate since December 2008, when unemployment stood at 9.2 percent. The national unemployment rate saw a decrease from 8.7 percent in November to 8.5 percent in December.

The state's labor force level was 2,162,094 in December, which was a drop of 3,227 from November to December. The number of employed grew by 4,307, which was 27,500 more people working than a year ago. The number of unemployed fell by 7,534. This was the highest number of employed and the lowest number of unemployed recorded during 2011.

"We are excited to see unemployment continue its steady decline in South Carolina," said SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) Executive Director Abraham J. Turner. "This is good news for South Carolinians, but there is still much work to be done as we continue to bring unemployment down. We encourage both businesses and job seekers to take advantage of the free services DEW offers through the SC Works centers across the state and online at [www.scworks.org](http://www.scworks.org). At this website, citizens can search for openings in their communities and upload their resumes. Additionally, employers can search for qualified candidates."

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



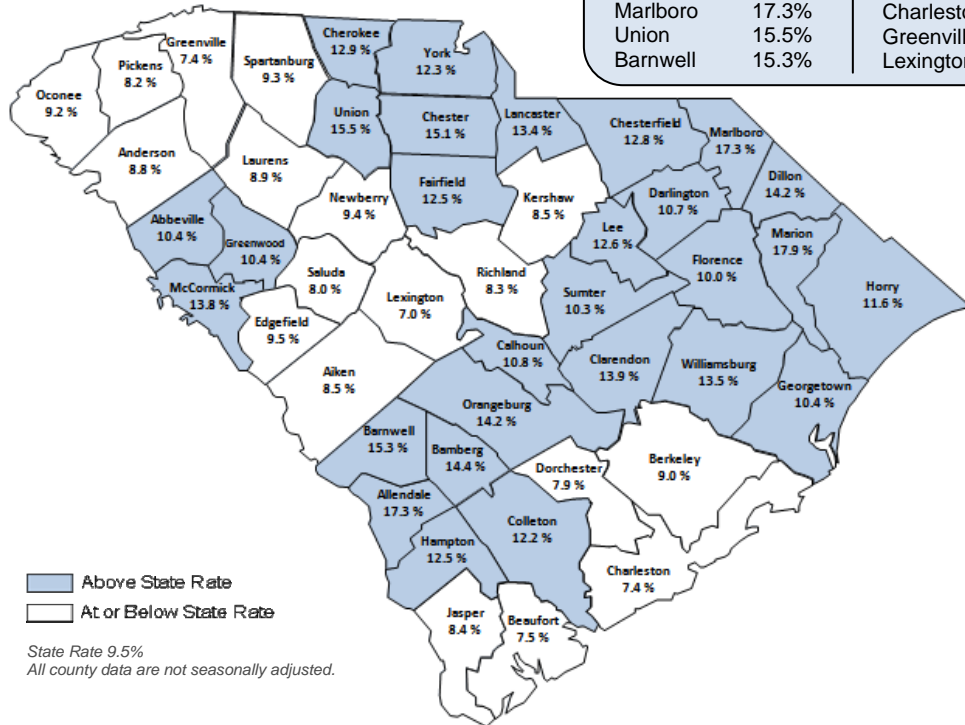
*Insights* is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, and all previous data are subject to revision. View the [SC Employment Situation Report](#).

## December Unemployment Rates by County

County unemployment rates showed increase in 35 of 46 counties across the state during December. Fairfield and Horry counties saw the largest gain, while the largest reductions occurred in Calhoun and Orangeburg counties. Since December 2010, 44 counties reported declines in their unemployment rate, only Aiken and Edgefield counties had increases. The largest rate drop over the year (-3.0 percent) was in York County, mainly due to a declining labor force.

Counties with the largest expansions in employment were Greenville County, which added 2,738 employed citizens, followed by Horry County with a jump of 2,664.

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Marion	17.9%	Dorchester	7.9%
Allendale	17.3%	Beaufort	7.5%
Marlboro	17.3%	Charleston	7.4%
Union	15.5%	Greenville	7.4%
Barnwell	15.3%	Lexington	7.0%



### State Unemployment Rates

Nevada	12.6
California	11.1
Rhode Island	10.8
D.C.	10.4
Mississippi	10.4
Florida	9.9
North Carolina	9.9
Illinois	9.8
Georgia	9.7
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Michigan	9.3
Kentucky	9.1
Indiana	9.0
New Jersey	9.0
Oregon	8.9
Arizona	8.7
Tennessee	8.7
Washington	8.5
<b>United States</b>	<b>8.5</b>
Idaho	8.4
Connecticut	8.2
Alabama	8.1
Ohio	8.1
Missouri	8.0
New York	8.0
Colorado	7.9
West Virginia	7.9
Texas	7.8
Arkansas	7.7
Pennsylvania	7.6
Delaware	7.4
Alaska	7.3
Wisconsin	7.1
Maine	7.0
Louisiana	6.8
Massachusetts	6.8
Montana	6.8
Maryland	6.7
Hawaii	6.6
New Mexico	6.6
Kansas	6.3
Virginia	6.2
Oklahoma	6.1
Utah	6.0
Wyoming	5.8
Minnesota	5.7
Iowa	5.6
New Hampshire	5.1
Vermont	5.1
South Dakota	4.2
Nebraska	4.1
North Dakota	3.3

Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed	
	December 2011	December 2010		December 2011	December 2010		December 2011	December 2010
Abbeville	1,113	1,304	Darlington	3,287	3,716	Lee	1,036	1,111
Aiken	6,433	6,360	Dillon	1,932	2,165	Lexington	9,282	10,667
Allendale	574	595	Dorchester	5,090	5,804	Marion	2,186	2,559
Anderson	7,425	8,844	Edgefield	1,048	1,025	Marlboro	1,989	2,188
Bamberg	910	968	Fairfield	1,350	1,464	McCormick	451	512
Barnwell	1,312	1,432	Florence	6,335	7,225	Newberry	1,701	1,955
Beaufort	4,818	5,613	Georgetown	3,124	3,741	Oconee	2,813	3,412
Berkeley	7,361	7,878	Greenville	16,434	19,597	Orangeburg	5,707	6,141
Calhoun	725	785	Greenwood	3,118	3,520	Pickens	4,691	5,306
Charleston	13,020	15,158	Hampton	984	1,133	Richland	14,840	16,630
Cherokee	3,154	3,484	Horry	14,879	16,611	Saluda	716	822
Chester	2,166	2,611	Jasper	862	993	Spartanburg	12,541	14,436
Chesterfield	2,352	2,781	Kershaw	2,522	2,939	Sumter	4,680	5,280
Clarendon	1,782	1,991	Lancaster	3,979	4,729	Union	1,725	2,005
Colleton	2,130	2,353	Laurens	2,841	3,513	Williamsburg	2,164	2,262
						York	13,738	17,595

## Labor Supply versus Labor Demand

The number of online job ads in South Carolina, as reported by the Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Index, a global, independent business membership and research association working in the public interest, had an increase of 500 (to 45,900) from November to December. This represents a substantial increase in job advertisements from a year ago (+4,300). Nationally, there was an upswing in ads posted (+93,800) for December.

The number of jobseekers per job opening was 4.5 in December, down from 4.7 in November. Registered Nurses had the highest online ads in the state. First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers ranked second.

The chart below provides a ratio for the number of jobseekers to job openings by area.

Workforce Areas December 2011 Data	Job Openings	Job Seekers	Job Seekers Per Opening
Catawba	1,516	19,883	13:1
Greenville	6,377	16,434	3:1
Lowcountry	1,671	8,794	5:1
Lower Savannah	1,312	15,661	12:1
Midlands	7,578	25,472	3:1
Pee Dee	1,968	18,081	9:1
Santee-Lynches	950	10,020	11:1
Trident	7,209	25,471	4:1
Upper Savannah	885	10,988	12:1
Upstate	2,531	17,420	7:1
Waccamaw	2,650	20,167	8:1
Worklink	2,055	14,929	7:1
South Carolina (SC)	45,900 (SA)	206,468 (SA)	5:1
United States (U.S.)	3,951,000 (SA)	13,100,000 (SA)	3:1

### SC Workforce Areas:

#### CATAWBA

Chester County  
Lancaster County  
York County

#### GREENVILLE

Greenville County

#### LOWCOUNTRY

Beaufort County  
Colleton County  
Hampton County  
Jasper County

#### LOWER SAVANNAH

Aiken County  
Allendale County  
Bamberg County  
Barnwell County  
Calhoun County  
Orangeburg County

#### MIDLANDS

Fairfield County  
Lexington County  
Richland County

SA-Seasonally Adjusted

#### Sources:

- The Help Wanted Online (HWOL), a service of The Conference Board;
- The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information

#### TRIDENT

Berkeley County  
Charleston County  
Dorchester County

#### UPPER SAVANNAH

Abbeville County  
Edgefield County  
Greenwood County  
Laurens County  
McCormick county  
Newberry County  
Saluda County

#### PEE DEE

Chesterfield County  
Darlington County  
Dillon County  
Florence County  
Marion County  
Marlboro County

#### UPSTATE

Cherokee County  
Spartanburg County  
Union County

#### WACCAMAW

Georgetown County  
Horry County  
Williamsburg County

#### WORKLINK

Anderson County  
Oconee County  
Pickens County

#### SANTEE-LYNCHES

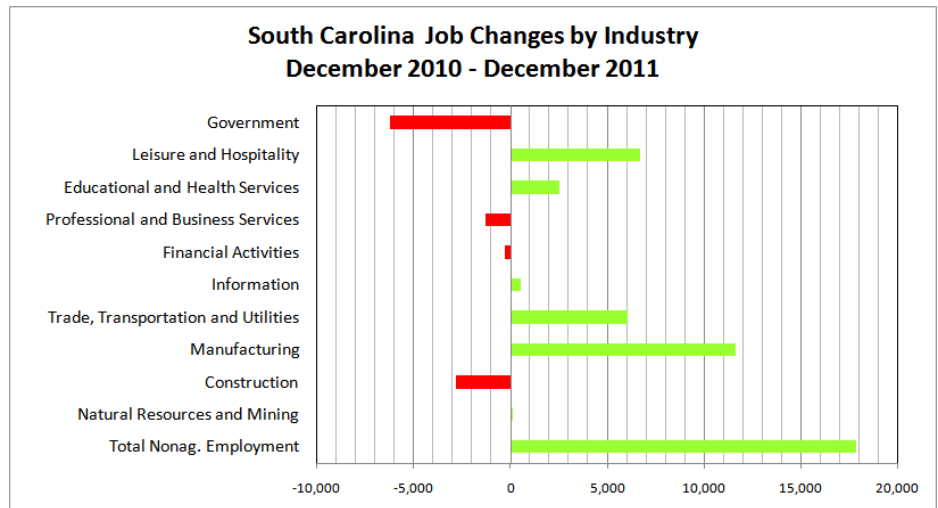
Clarendon County  
Kershaw County  
Lee County  
Sumter County

## South Carolina Employment Trends

Not seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment dropped 3,800 from November to December, but was up 17,800 from a year ago. There were healthy month-to-month increases in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+1,500) and Manufacturing (+1,200). Manufacturing advanced 11,600 from last year. The growth in Trade, Transportation and Utilities was mainly from Retail Trade, with Durable Goods primarily driving the gain in Manufacturing. Leisure and Hospitality reported a loss (-3,500), and Government reflected a decrease (-2,800) since November. The state's average weekly manufacturing workweek increased 0.4 hours over the month.

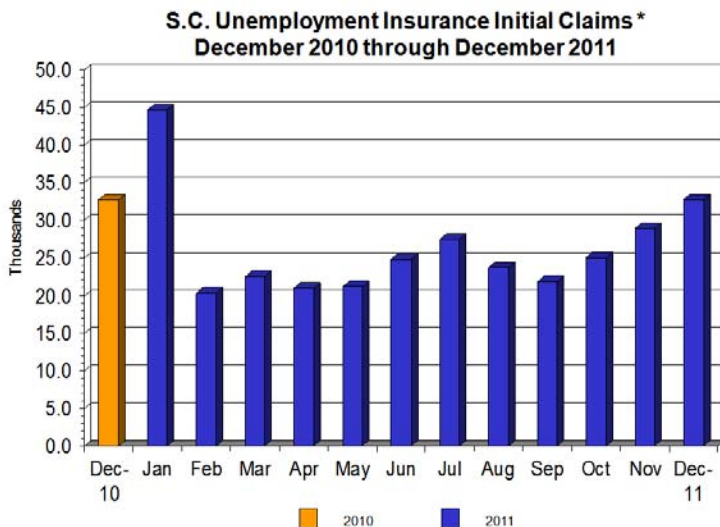
In the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Greenville (+600), Sumter (+600), and Charleston (+500) reflected job gains, while Columbia (-3,200), Myrtle Beach (-2,900), Spartanburg (-500), and Florence (-400) declined. Anderson had little change (-100).

By mid-January, students will return to classes at colleges, universities, and secondary schools across the state and retailers will have reduced their seasonal holiday hires. February will likely see ramped up hiring for home improvement and gardening retailers. The coast will start to see increased activity in the Accommodation and Food Services industry. After that, service-providing employers will benefit from warmer weather as they welcome visitors to the state's many beaches, golf courses, and recreational areas.



## December Initial Unemployment Claims

Compared to December 2010, total initial claims were down 2,805 (8.56 percent), with South Carolina's unemployment insurance benefits paid showing a significant decline, dropping \$6,673,824 (17.29 percent). The average duration of benefits paid decreased from a year ago high of 17.0 weeks to 15.2 weeks (10.58 percent) for this December, continuing a positive trend.



Total Initial Claims*	29,958
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$ 31,926,406
UI Benefits Exhausted	7,390
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	15.2
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$ 235.26
<i>*All Programs</i>	