

INSIGHTS

Labor Market Information

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

December 2012

	United States	SC
Labor Force	155,511,000	2,149,592
Employed	143,305,000	1,969,560
Unemployed	12,206,000	180,032
Unemployment Rate	7.8%	8.4%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 984.13	\$ 738.26
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	42.6
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 24.18	\$ 17.33

Top Job Growth by MSA

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Spartanburg MSA	0.00%	4.23%
Florence MSA	-0.94%	2.30%
Columbia MSA	-0.23%	1.37%
Charleston MSA	-0.33%	1.24%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2012	2011
U.S. Population Ratio	58.6%	58.6%
S.C. Population Ratio	53.8%	53.7%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	Dec.	Nov.	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	63.6%	63.6%	0.0%
S.C. Participation Rate	58.7%	58.5%	0.2%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	1.7%
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Due to annual benchmarking, **January data** will be released on Monday, **March 18, 2013.**



February data will follow with a release date of Friday, **March 29, 2013.**

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

Employment
5,325



Unemployment
3,211



Unemployment
Rate 0.1%



Slight Gain in Year-end Rate

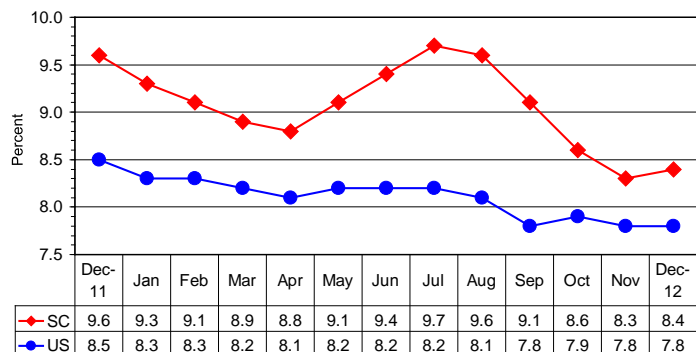
For the first time since July, South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased, edging up from 8.3 percent in November to 8.4 percent in December. This rate represented an estimated 180,032 unemployed persons, climbing (+3,211) for the first time in five months. The number of employed people rose for the fourth consecutive month and was approximately 1,969,560. Labor force estimates had a modest gain of 8,536 from the previous month.

After a November rate revision, the national unemployment rate remained at 7.8 percent for December, with roughly 28,000 more Americans working and 164,000 additional people searching for work.

Over the year, an estimated 18,200 jobseekers found work, while the number of unemployed dropped approximately 28,000. The labor force declined slightly (-10,000), which pushed the unemployment rate down 1.2 percentage points.

Going forward, the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics will begin its annual benchmarking process over the next few months, in which analysts update the labor force and industry estimates with more current data. This process may offer additional information on the state's progress in 2012 and greater insight into 2013.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates
December 2011 through December 2012



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 2011 benchmark.

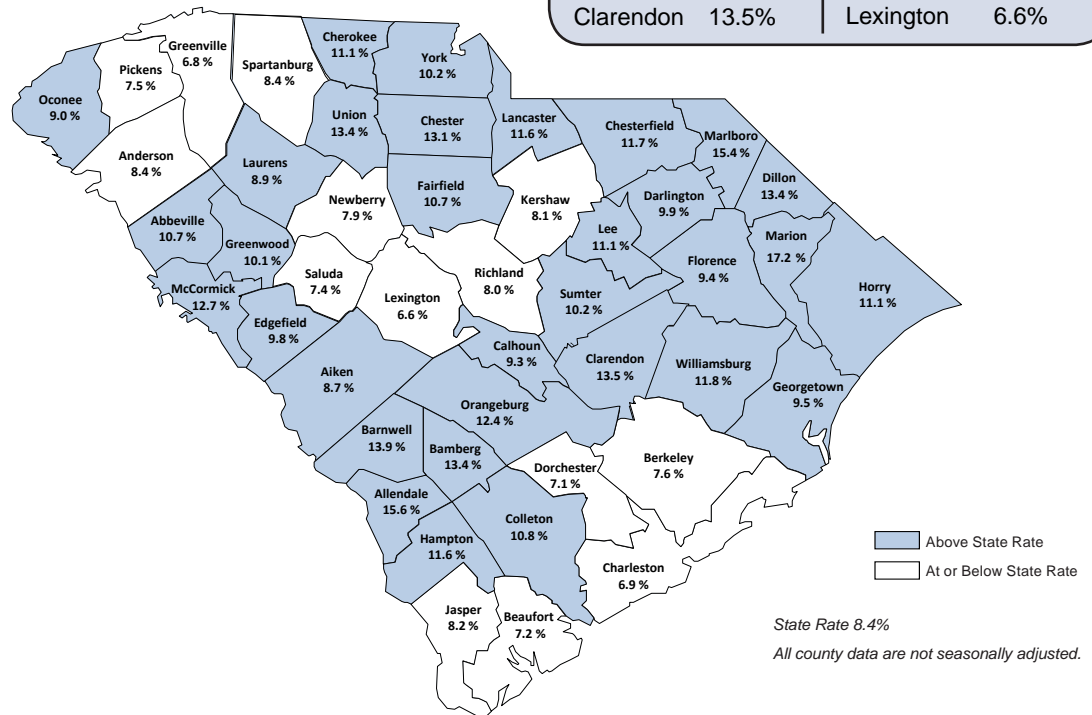
December Unemployment Rates by County

State	Unemployment Rates
Nevada	10.2
Rhode Island	10.2
California	9.8
New Jersey	9.6
North Carolina	9.2
Michigan	8.9
Illinois	8.7
Connecticut	8.6
Georgia	8.6
Mississippi	8.6
D.C.	8.5
Oregon	8.4
South Carolina	8.4
Indiana	8.2
New York	8.2
Kentucky	8.1
Florida	8.0
Arizona	7.9
Pennsylvania	7.9
United States	7.8
Colorado	7.6
Tennessee	7.6
Washington	7.6
West Virginia	7.5
Maine	7.3
Alabama	7.1
Arkansas	7.1
Delaware	6.9
Massachusetts	6.7
Missouri	6.7
Ohio	6.7
Alaska	6.6
Idaho	6.6
Maryland	6.6
Wisconsin	6.6
New Mexico	6.4
Texas	6.1
Montana	5.7
New Hampshire	5.7
Louisiana	5.5
Minnesota	5.5
Virginia	5.5
Kansas	5.4
Hawaii	5.2
Utah	5.2
Oklahoma	5.1
Vermont	5.1
Iowa	4.9
Wyoming	4.9
South Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	3.7
North Dakota	3.2

Over the month, county unemployment rate estimates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 43 counties. Bamberg, Orangeburg, and Calhoun counties experienced rate decreases. The unemployment rate in Lexington County remained the lowest at 6.6 percent, while Marion County was the highest in the state at 17.2 percent.

Over the year, county unemployment rates have dropped in 43 counties, reflecting a gradual improvement in the state as a whole. Many rural counties with labor force levels of 15,000, or lower, saw little change in their employment levels. Conversely, counties in metropolitan areas have fared better. Spartanburg County continues to lead the state in jobseekers finding work (+3,285) followed by York County (+2,511); the exceptions have been Aiken (-1,224) and Edgefield (-180) counties.

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	17.2%	Beaufort	7.2%
Allendale	15.6%	Dorchester	7.1%
Marlboro	15.4%	Charleston	6.9%
Barnwell	13.9%	Greenville	6.8%
Clarendon	13.5%	Lexington	6.6%



South Carolina Ranked Thirteenth of Fifty-one in December

Twenty-two states recorded unemployment rate decreases, 16 states and the District of Columbia posted increases, and 12 states had no change in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. **South Carolina** ranked 13th in the nation among all states. Forty-two states and the District of Columbia saw rate declines from a year earlier, six states experienced gains, and two states had no change. The national jobless rate, 7.8 percent, was unchanged from a revised November estimate and was 0.7 of a percentage point lower than in December 2011.

In December 2012, nonfarm payroll employment rose in 27 states and the District of Columbia and fell in 23 states. The largest over-the-month gain in employment occurred in New York (+35,100), followed by New Jersey (+30,200), Georgia (+14,400), and Missouri (+10,200). The largest over-the-month decline in employment occurred in California (-17,500), followed by Florida (-15,300), Louisiana (-11,400), and Michigan (-10,600).

Employment Changes by County October through December 2012

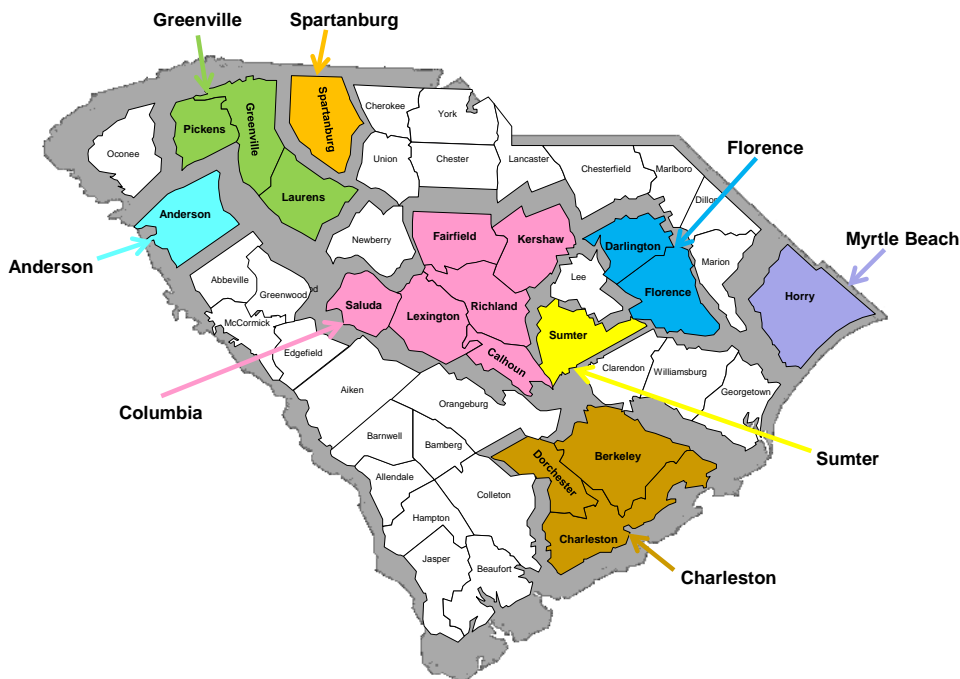
County	Employment			Net change from:	
	Dec 2012	Nov 2012	Oct 2012	Nov-Dec 2012	Oct-Nov 2012
Abbeville	9,684	9,688	9,701	-4	-13
Aiken	67,420	67,751	68,135	-331	-384
Allendale	2,782	2,786	2,783	-4	3
Anderson	74,769	74,670	75,072	99	-402
Bamberg	5,372	5,378	5,375	-6	3
Barnwell	7,249	7,261	7,272	-12	-11
Beaufort	60,242	60,318	60,372	-76	-54
Berkeley	77,165	77,578	78,145	-413	-567
Calhoun	6,016	6,036	6,096	-20	-60
Charleston	162,758	163,628	164,824	-870	-1,196
Cherokee	22,173	22,189	22,255	-16	-66
Chester	12,641	12,642	12,666	-1	-24
Chesterfield	16,666	16,695	16,707	-29	-12
Clarendon	10,717	10,739	10,754	-22	-15
Colleton	15,276	15,311	15,325	-35	-14
Darlington	27,505	27,776	27,876	-271	-100
Dillon	11,500	11,520	11,508	-20	12
Dorchester	63,094	63,431	63,895	-337	-464
Edgefield	9,913	9,961	10,018	-48	-57
Fairfield	9,466	9,497	9,591	-31	-94
Florence	56,774	57,333	57,541	-559	-208
Georgetown	26,881	27,070	27,178	-189	-108
Greenville	207,789	208,192	209,293	-403	-1,101
Greenwood	27,958	27,976	28,006	-18	-30
Hampton	6,851	6,859	6,857	-8	2
Horry	109,019	112,446	114,664	-3,427	-2,218
Jasper	9,700	9,712	9,721	-12	-9
Kershaw	26,957	27,045	27,311	-88	-266
Lancaster	27,334	27,341	27,391	-7	-50
Laurens	27,745	27,799	27,946	-54	-147
Lee	7,182	7,203	7,221	-21	-18
Lexington	123,287	123,690	124,909	-403	-1,219
Marion	9,829	9,896	9,932	-67	-36
Marlboro	9,697	9,698	9,718	-1	-20
McCormick	2,933	2,935	2,939	-2	-4
Newberry	16,795	16,791	16,835	4	-44
Oconee	28,484	28,513	28,564	-29	-51
Orangeburg	36,076	36,116	36,148	-40	-32
Pickens	53,141	53,244	53,525	-103	-281
Richland	165,671	166,213	167,850	-542	-1,637
Saluda	8,292	8,319	8,401	-27	-82
Spartanburg	122,948	123,062	124,167	-114	-1,105
Sumter	39,347	39,419	39,721	-72	-302
Union	9,915	9,921	9,955	-6	-34
Williamsburg	14,216	14,281	14,309	-65	-28
York	100,985	101,013	101,249	-28	-236

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) December 2012



Catawba WIA	10.8%
www.catawbacog.org	
Greenville WIA	6.8%
www.greenvillewib.com	
Lowcountry WIA	8.3%
www.lowcountryworkforce.org	
Lower Savannah WIA	10.5%
www.lswia.org	
Midlands WIA	7.5%
www.midlandsworkforce.org	
Pee Dee WIA	11.2%
www.peedeewib.org	
Santee-Lynches WIA	10.0%
www.slworkforcedev.org	
Trident WIA	7.1%
www.toscc.org	
Upper Savannah WIA	9.3%
www.us1stops.com	
Upstate WIA	9.2%
www.upstatewib.org	
Waccamaw WIA	10.9%
www.wrcog.org	
Worklink WIA	8.2%
www.worklinkweb.com	

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) December 2012



Anderson MSA	8.4%
Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville MSA	7.1%
Columbia MSA	7.6%
Florence MSA	9.5%
Greenville MSA	7.1%
Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway MSA	11.1%
Spartanburg MSA	8.4%
Sumter MSA	10.2%

South Carolina Employment Trends

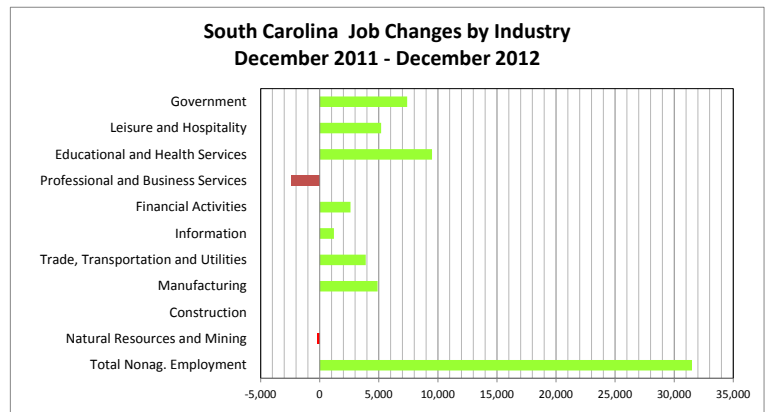
South Carolina's nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted) fell 5,800 from November to December 2012, reaching 1,874,300. This was the first decline since July 2012. Since a year ago, nonfarm jobs were up 31,500 or 1.7 percentage points, compared to a national increase of 1.4 percentage points.

Over the year, statewide nonfarm payroll growth (+31,500) has approached levels the state experienced prior to the recent recession. The metropolitan statistical areas of Spartanburg (+5,000), Columbia (+4,800), Charleston (+3,700), and Florence (+1,900) have accounted for nearly 50 percent of the annual growth. Greenville (+300) and Anderson (+300) marked modest job increases, and Sumter (-400) and Myrtle Beach (-200) saw decreases.

Although overall employment declined in December, several industries saw gains: Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,400), Education and Health Services (+1,100), and Construction (+700). Modest increases were seen in Financial Activities (+300) and Information (+100). In addition, retail trade demand remained high, and health care needs continued in a positive direction during the month.

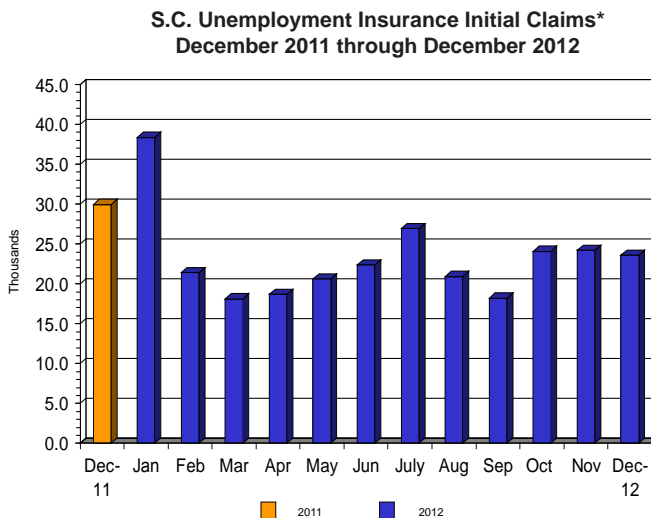
Leisure and Hospitality fell 5,900 due to a drop in demand for Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, as well as Accommodation and Food Services. Local government services and employment services demand was also down during the month causing a drop of 2,300 in Government and 1,700 in Professional and Business Services.

According to survey estimates, the state's average weekly manufacturing hours increased by 0.2 hours over the month, while hourly wages also increased by \$0.13. Since December 2011, hours have been up slightly (+0.3), and wages have climbed by \$0.26 per hour.



December Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's initial unemployment claims reported a decline of 579 between November and December, which was 6,356 fewer claims than in December 2011. Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits paid also dropped from the previous month by over \$5 million and posted a reduction of \$8.4 million from this time last year. In addition to fewer people applying for and receiving benefits, there was a downward trend in the average duration of benefits paid, which fell to 13.0 weeks this December, as compared to 15.2 weeks a year ago.



SC Unemployment Activities	
Total Initial Claims*	23,602
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$23,481,127
UI Benefits Exhausted	3,320
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	13.0
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$246.04

* All programs

Labor Supply Versus Labor Demand

South Carolina 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 *

Pee Dee

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

Santee-Lynches

Clarendon County
Kershaw County *
Lee County
Sumter County *

Trident

Berkeley County *
Charleston County *
Dorchester County *

Upper Savannah

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

Upstate

Cherokee County
Spartanburg County *
Union County

Waccamaw

Georgetown County
Horry County *
Williamsburg County

WorkLink

Anderson County *
Oconee County
Pickens County *

* These counties also comprise the SC Metropolitan Statistical Areas (see maps on page 4)

Online job advertisements in South Carolina, as reported to The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series, showed an increase of 1,800 ads from November to December. Compared to a year ago, online ads in South Carolina were approximately 7,600 higher in December 2012. Across the United States, online ads saw an increase of 217,900 in the past month.

Labor demand in the Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties) was greatest with 10,597 posted advertisements. The Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland counties) followed with 10,275 online advertisements. Statewide, the labor supply versus demand rate remained at 3.1.

The top five online advertisements in South Carolina for December included:

1. Registered Nurses = 2,770
2. First-Line Supervisors & Managers of Retail Sales Workers = 2,062
3. Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer = 2,044
4. Retail Salespersons = 1,531
5. Physical Therapists = 1,189

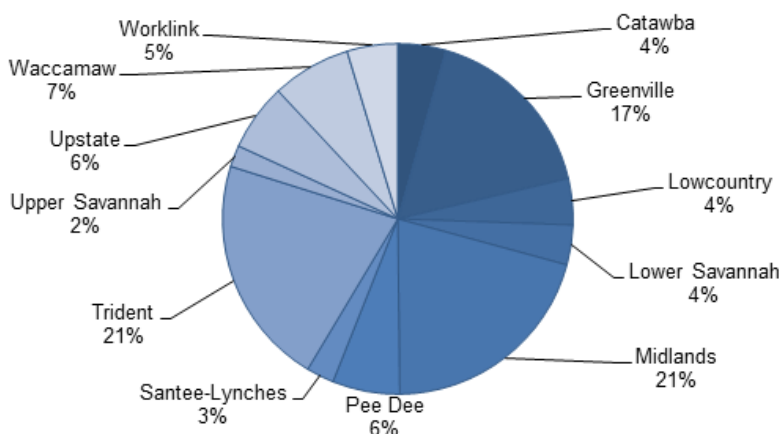
This table provides a breakdown of data and a ratio of jobseekers to job openings by workforce area.

Workforce Areas	Job Openings	Jobseekers	Jobseekers Per Opening Ratio
December 2012 Data			
Catawba	2,203	17,035	8:1
Greenville	8,415	15,053	2:1
Lowcountry	2,123	8,294	4:1
Lower Savannah	1,832	14,681	8:1
Midlands	10,275	24,336	2:1
Pee Dee	3,101	16,689	5:1
Santee-Lynches	1,272	9,381	7:1
Trident	10,597	23,263	2:1
Upper Savannah	988	10,627	11:1
Upstate	3,092	15,656	5:1
Waccamaw	3,632	18,394	5:1
Worklink	2,335	13,970	6:1
South Carolina (SC)	58,200 (SA)	180,032 (SA)	3:1
United States (U.S.)	4,937,800 (SA)	12,200,000 (SA)	3:1

SA=Seasonally Adjusted

The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series measures online jobs (rounded) from about 16,000 major Internet job sites and smaller job sites that serve niche markets and smaller geographic areas. The online series counts the number of on-line job advertisements, which may or may not have multiple job openings. The level of ads in print and online can change for reasons not related to overall job demand.

South Carolina Online Job Advertisements by Workforce Areas



Sources:

- The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series;
- The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information