

# SCSL Digital Collections

## Insights

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# INSIGHTS

## Labor Market Information

## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### Economic Indicators

May 2012

	United States	SC
Labor Force	155,007,000	2,153,265
Employed	142,287,000	1,957,360
Unemployed	12,720,000	195,905
Unemployment Rate	8.2%	9.1%

### Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 968.76	\$ 697.22
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.5	41.8
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.92	\$ 16.68

### Job Growth (Year Over Year)

	% Change
Florence MSA	5.80%
Spartanburg MSA	3.36%
Columbia MSA	2.16%
Myrtle Beach MSA	1.01%

### Labor Force Participation Rate

	2012	2011
U.S. Participation Rate	63.8%	64.2%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.1%	59.7%

### Employment to Population Ratio

	2012	2011
U.S. Population Ratio	58.6%	58.4%
S.C. Population Ratio	53.8%	53.5%

### United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	1.7%
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### In the News

#### New Website for Labor Market

SCWorks has put Labor Market Information at your fingertips! Find employment statistics, wages and demographics to help you better understand today's complex workforce.



[www.scworkforceinfo.com](http://www.scworkforceinfo.com)

**Note:** Due to updated information, some county level labor force data contained within this publication may differ slightly from the data released in South Carolina's Employment Situation (May 2012 data) on June 15, 2012.

Employment  
3,886 ↓

Unemployment  
5,861 ↑

Unemployment  
Rate 0.3% ↑

## Unemployment Rate Increases

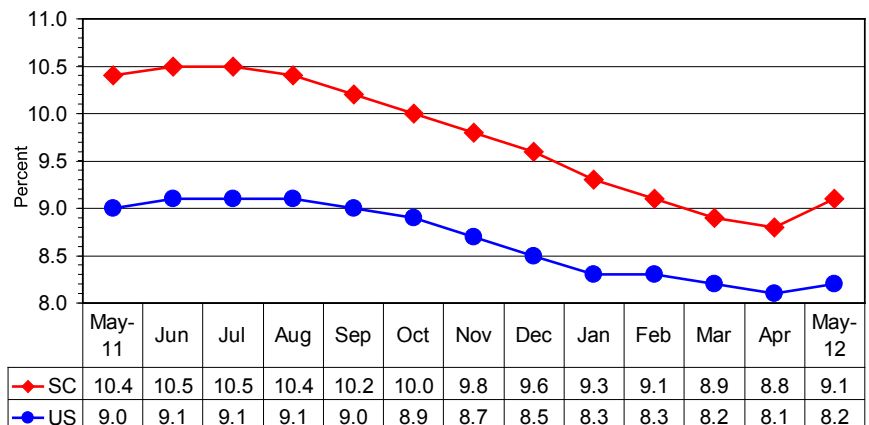
For the first time in 10 months, South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased, moving from 8.8% in April to 9.1% in May. This rate represented 195,905 unemployed persons, up from the 190,044 reported in April. Employment was at 1,957,360, reflecting a decline of 3,886 people. This combination moved the labor force up slightly to 2,153,265 people. This indicated that re-entrants were returning to the labor force hopeful of improved hiring prospects.

Although, the rate increased in May, it was still 1.3 percentage points below the year ago level when the rate stood at 10.4%. Over the year, an estimated 24,746 people found work and the number of unemployed people decreased by approximately 29,000. Reportedly, only 4,260 persons left the labor force during the past year.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased slightly from 8.1% in April to 8.2% in May. Of special note, approximately 642,000 people entered the labor force in May, reversing the previous two months of labor force reduction. Historically, South Carolina's unemployment rate fluctuations have mirrored the movements of the national rate, and this month was no exception.

As summer approaches, re-entrants and new people entering the job market for the first time may foreshadow some upward pressure on the rate.

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

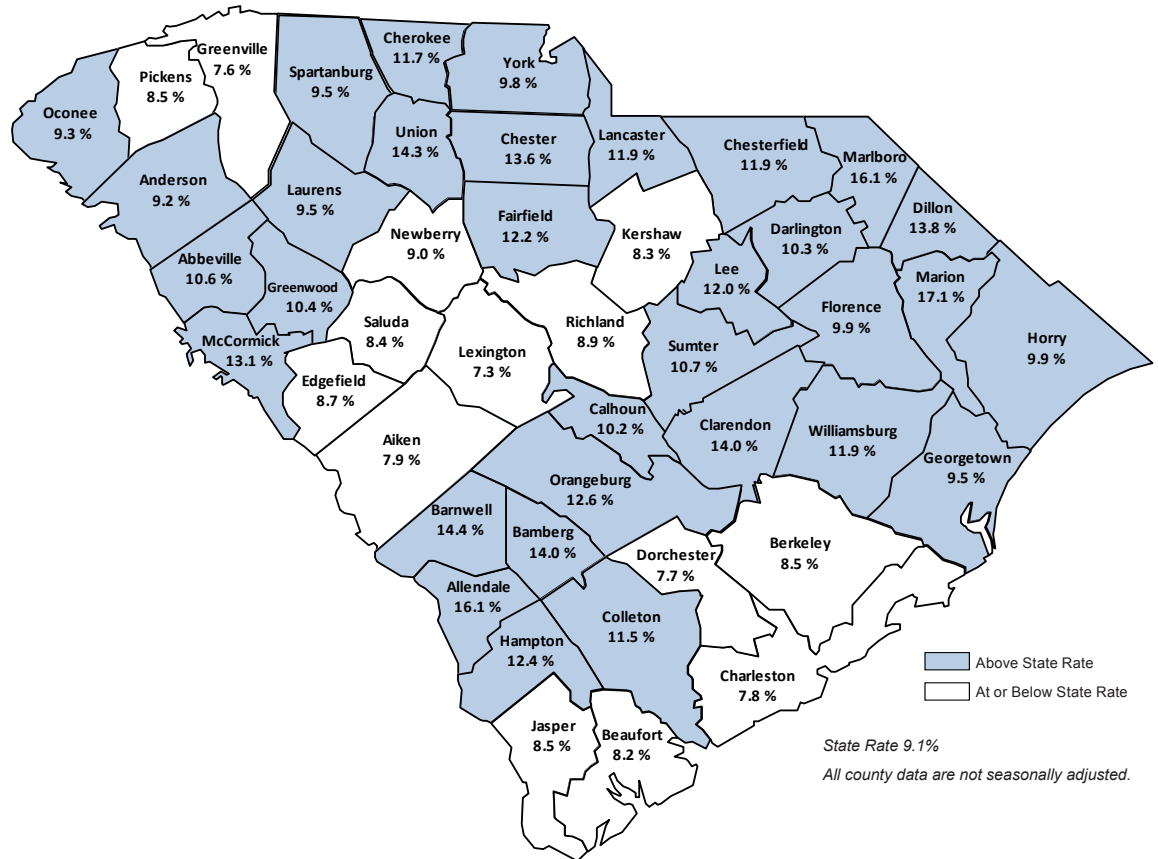
## May Unemployment Rates by County

Forty-four of the 46 counties in South Carolina showed increases in their unemployment rates for May. York and Marlboro counties registered the only rate decreases of -0.9 and -0.7 percentage points, respectively. Marion County was the highest at 17.1 percent and Lexington County remained the lowest at 7.3 percent.

Over the year, 44 counties had decreases in their unemployment rate estimates. Edgefield County held steady and Fairfield County increased 0.1 percent. Florence County saw the largest increase in people finding work, as estimates showed a gain of 3,045, followed by Spartanburg County with around 2,778 people finding employment. Anderson County had the largest drop in people working with nearly 2,379 fewer people working than a year ago.

State	Unemployment Rates
Nevada	11.6
Rhode Island	11.0
California	10.8
North Carolina	9.4
D.C.	9.3
New Jersey	9.2
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Georgia	8.9
Mississippi	8.7
Florida	8.6
Illinois	8.6
New York	8.6
Michigan	8.5
Oregon	8.4
Washington	8.3
<b>United States</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Arizona	8.2
Kentucky	8.2
Colorado	8.1
Indiana	7.9
Tennessee	7.9
Connecticut	7.8
Idaho	7.8
Alabama	7.4
Maine	7.4
Pennsylvania	7.4
Arkansas	7.3
Missouri	7.3
Ohio	7.3
Louisiana	7.2
Alaska	7.0
Texas	6.9
West Virginia	6.9
Delaware	6.8
Maryland	6.8
Wisconsin	6.8
New Mexico	6.7
Hawaii	6.3
Montana	6.3
Kansas	6.1
Massachusetts	6.0
Utah	6.0
Minnesota	5.6
Virginia	5.6
Wyoming	5.2
Iowa	5.1
New Hampshire	5.0
Oklahoma	4.8
Vermont	4.6
South Dakota	4.3
Nebraska	3.9
North Dakota	3.0

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	17.1%	Aiken	7.9%
Allendale	16.1%	Charleston	7.8%
Marlboro	16.1%	Dorchester	7.7%
Barnwell	14.4%	Greenville	7.6%
Union	14.3%	Lexington	7.3%



## South Carolina Ranked Seventh of Fifty-one in May

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that regional and state unemployment rates were little changed in May. Eighteen states recorded unemployment rate increases, 14 states and the District of Columbia posted rate decreases, and 18 states had no change. Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia registered unemployment rate declines from a year earlier, while only one state (New York) experienced a gain. The national jobless rate at 8.2 percent was 0.8 of a percentage point lower than May 2011.

## Changes in Employment by County March through May 2012

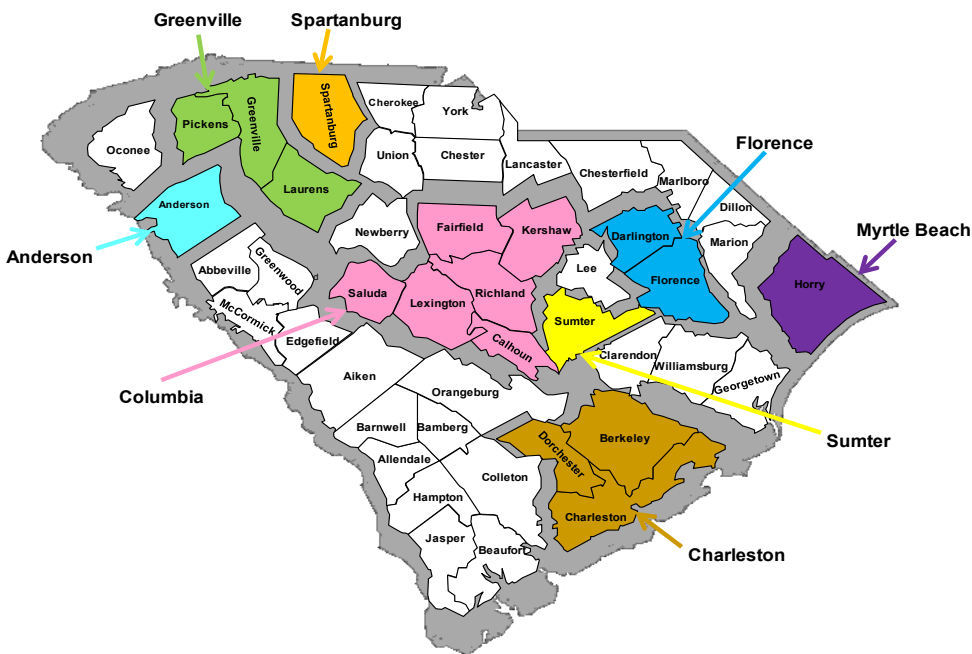
County	Employment			Employment Changes	
	May	April	March	Apr-May	Mar-Apr
Abbeville County	9,701	9,590	9,600	111	-10
Aiken County	67,888	68,581	68,541	-693	40
Allendale County	2,835	2,750	2,788	85	-38
Anderson County	74,917	74,823	74,519	94	304
Bamberg County	5,393	5,286	5,317	107	-31
Barnwell County	7,280	7,201	7,225	79	-24
Beaufort County	60,136	59,561	59,506	575	55
Berkeley County	77,509	77,747	77,447	-238	300
Calhoun County	6,082	6,050	6,057	32	-7
Charleston County	163,483	163,986	163,354	-503	632
Cherokee County	22,009	21,878	21,864	131	14
Chester County	12,583	12,486	12,501	97	-15
Chesterfield County	16,767	16,512	16,578	255	-66
Clarendon County	10,918	10,670	10,767	248	-97
Colleton County	15,398	15,150	15,213	248	-63
Darlington County	28,176	27,919	27,853	257	66
Dillon County	11,608	11,347	11,442	261	-95
Dorchester County	63,375	63,570	63,325	-195	245
Edgefield County	9,982	10,084	10,078	-102	6
Fairfield County	9,569	9,519	9,530	50	-11
Florence County	58,160	57,630	57,491	530	139
Georgetown County	27,485	26,939	26,948	546	-9
Greenville County	208,314	207,987	208,664	327	-677
Greenwood County	27,866	27,606	27,590	260	16
Hampton County	6,912	6,761	6,818	151	-57
Horry County	119,031	115,268	113,391	3,763	1,877
Jasper County	9,683	9,590	9,581	93	9
Kershaw County	27,251	27,106	27,140	145	-34
Lancaster County	27,188	27,004	26,993	184	11
Laurens County	27,816	27,772	27,862	44	-90
Lee County	7,350	7,163	7,253	187	-90
Lexington County	124,631	123,971	124,123	660	-152
Marion County	10,099	9,867	9,914	232	-47
Marlboro County	9,744	9,602	9,741	142	-139
McCormick County	2,936	2,899	2,908	37	-9
Newberry County	16,850	16,578	16,740	272	-162
Oconee County	28,532	28,231	28,284	301	-53
Orangeburg County	36,156	35,582	35,715	574	-133
Pickens County	53,275	53,191	53,364	84	-173
Richland County	167,478	166,590	166,794	888	-204
Saluda County	8,383	8,338	8,349	45	-11
Spartanburg County	121,278	121,662	121,871	-384	-209
Sumter County	40,210	39,724	39,941	486	-217
Union County	9,871	9,784	9,813	87	-29
Williamsburg County	14,496	14,184	14,265	312	-81
York County	99,630	99,838	99,400	-208	438

## Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) May 2012



Catawba WIA	10.5%
<a href="http://www.catawbacog.org">www.catawbacog.org</a>	
Greenville WIA	7.6%
<a href="http://www.greenvillewib.com">www.greenvillewib.com</a>	
Lowcountry WIA	9.1%
<a href="http://www.lowcountryworkforce.org">www.lowcountryworkforce.org</a>	
Lower Savannah WIA	10.3%
<a href="http://www.lswia.org">www.lswia.org</a>	
Midlands WIA	8.4%
<a href="http://www.midlandsworkforce.org">www.midlandsworkforce.org</a>	
Pee Dee WIA	11.6%
<a href="http://www.peedeewib.org">www.peedeewib.org</a>	
Santee-Lynches WIA	10.5%
<a href="http://www.slworkforcedev.org">www.slworkforcedev.org</a>	
Trident WIA	7.9%
<a href="http://www.toscc.org">www.toscc.org</a>	
Upper Savannah WIA	9.7%
<a href="http://www.us1stops.com">www.us1stops.com</a>	
Upstate WIA	10.1%
<a href="http://www.upstatewib.org">www.upstatewib.org</a>	
Waccamaw WIA	10.0%
<a href="http://www.wrcog.org">www.wrcog.org</a>	
Worklink WIA	9.0%
<a href="http://www.worklinkweb.com">www.worklinkweb.com</a>	

## Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) May 2012



Anderson MSA	9.2%
Charleston- North Charleston- Summerville MSA	7.9%
Columbia MSA	8.4%
Florence MSA	10.0%
Greenville MSA	8.0%
Myrtle Beach- North Myrtle Beach- Conway MSA	9.9%
Spartanburg MSA	9.5%
Sumter MSA	10.7%

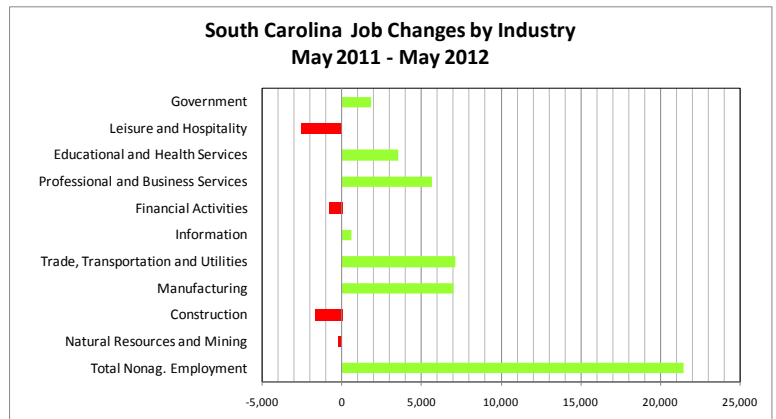
## South Carolina Monthly Employment Trends

Not seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased 16,800 from April to May. Gains were measured in several sectors. The Trade, Transportation and Utilities sector climbed by 4,700, mostly in the Retail Trade subsector. Growth was also seen in Leisure and Hospitality (+3,700), which was concentrated in the Food Services and Drinking subsector for the third consecutive month. Increases in Professional and Business Services (+4,700), Construction (+1,400), and Education and Health Care (+1,100), were noted. Slight changes were seen in Manufacturing (-200) and Government (+100).

Of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Myrtle Beach (+4,000), Columbia (+3,100), Greenville (+2,000), and Florence (+600) saw the largest increases. Sumter (+400), Anderson (+200), and Spartanburg (+100) also had increases.

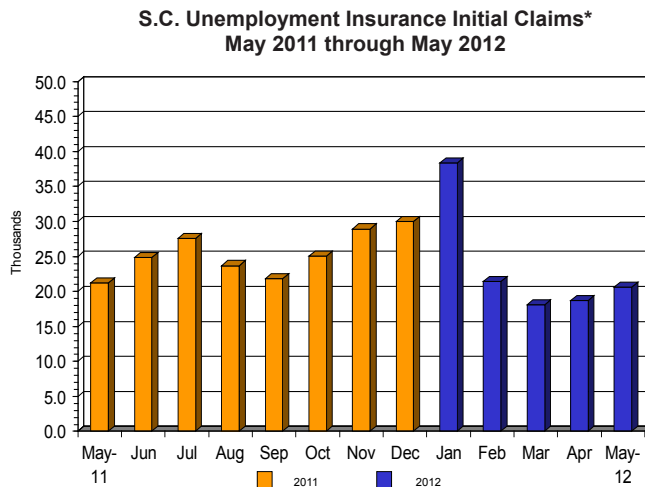
Over the year, the state has seen job growth in the metropolitan statistical areas of Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Spartanburg, Myrtle Beach, and Greenville. Sumter was nearly flat and Anderson was down over 4 percent, mainly due to a decline in service related jobs.

Survey estimates indicate the state's average weekly manufacturing hours declined by 0.2 hours over the month. Hourly wages declined by \$0.17. Over the year, hours have decreased by 0.9 hours, with wages increasing by \$0.10.



## May Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's initial unemployment claims showed an increase of 1,888 from April to May. However, regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits paid fell approximately \$5.3 million since last month and decreased over \$15.5 million from May 2011. The number of those who depleted their benefits dropped 644 from April, and 1,782 when compared to last May, while the average duration of unemployment benefits paid was reduced from 16.1 weeks a year ago to 14.5 weeks.



Total Initial Claims*	20,596
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$22,961,692
UI Benefits Exhausted	5,024
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	14.5
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$242.72

\* All programs



## Labor Supply Versus Labor Demand

### 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

#### 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

Online job advertisements in South Carolina experienced a slight upsurge of approximately 600 ads from April to May 2012, as reported by the Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series. However, online ads across the United States saw a decrease (-45,700) from a month earlier. Compared to a year ago, online ads in South Carolina were about 2,100 higher in May 2012. The number of jobseekers per opening rate rose slightly from 3.6 to 3.7 this past month.

The Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties) had the most advertisements (13,037), with the Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland counties) coming in next (11,536). Healthcare hiring demand was still strong with the most ads. In May, there were more than 9,932 online postings for healthcare careers. This was an 11.4 percent increase compared to the same time last year.

The most commonly advertised healthcare job titles for the month included:

1. Registered Nurses
2. Physical Therapists
3. Occupational Therapists
4. Speech-Language Pathologists
5. Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

The table below shows a breakdown of numbers and a ratio of jobseekers to job openings by workforce area.

Workforce Areas May 2012 Data	Job Openings	Jobseekers	Jobseekers Per Opening Ratio
Catawba	2,947	16,435	6:1
Greenville	10,430	17,182	2:1
Lowcountry	3,503	9,257	3:1
Lower Savannah	2,287	14,363	6:1
Midlands	11,536	27,650	2:1
Pee Dee	3,232	17,678	6:1
Santee-Lynches	1,565	10,048	6:1
Trident	13,037	26,280	2:1
Upper Savannah	1,347	11,120	8:1
Upstate	3,560	17,245	5:1
Waccamaw	5,714	17,974	3:1
Worklink	2,914	15,461	5:1
South Carolina (SC)	53,500 (SA)	195,905 (SA)	4:1
United States (U.S.)	4,714,800 (SA)	12,700,000 (SA)	3:1

SA=Seasonally Adjusted

#### 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