



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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South Carolina's Employment Situation October 2011

Unemployment rate drops; Employment bumps up

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate experienced a significant drop, from a revised estimate of 10.9 percent in September to 10.5 percent in October. Fewer job seekers during the month, coupled with stronger employment growth led to the first September to October decline in the rate in five years.

A gain of 10,066 from September to October brought the total number of employed South Carolinians to 1,941,778. The number of unemployed people declined over the month by 9,611, making the total unemployed count fall to 227,719.

The national unemployment rate dropped slightly from 9.1 percent to 9.0 percent.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased 9,400 from September to October. This gain reverses a three-month decline, and is an increase of 15,000 from a year ago. Manufacturing continues its upward trend, climbing 600 since last month and reflects a strong increase of 10,800 since last year.

The largest industry sector increases were in Government (+3,500), Education and Health Services (+2,200), and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+2,100). Two sectors saw decreases in the last month: Leisure and Hospitality (-2,200) and Natural Resources and Mining (-100).

Although increases were seen in Construction (+700) and Government over the month, they are still recording negative numbers from a year ago: Construction (-4,700) and Government (-5,100).

The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Index, a global, independent business membership and research association working in the public interest, reflected that the number of online ads in South Carolina increased by 1,500 (to 47,500 ads) from September to October. Nationally, there was a decline of 13,600 ads posted in October.

"South Carolina recently received roughly \$20 million in workforce development grants from the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education to be used for retraining unemployed citizens in emerging industries, such as industrial maintenance and manufacturing, engineering, and transportation," said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director Abraham Turner. "I am confident that with this training we can expect to see a continued decrease in our state's unemployment rate."

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
October 2011

Jobs by Industry	October 2011	September 2011	October 2010	September 2011 to October 2011		October 2010 to October 2011	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,832,500	1,823,100	1,817,500	9,400	0.52%	15,000	0.83%
Natural Resources and Mining	4,000	4,100	4,000	-100	-2.44%	0	0.00%
Construction	76,400	75,700	81,100	700	0.92%	-4,700	-5.80%
Manufacturing	219,300	218,700	208,500	600	0.27%	10,800	5.18%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	350,600	348,500	346,800	2,100	0.60%	3,800	1.10%
Information	25,400	25,200	25,300	200	0.79%	100	0.40%
Financial Activities	97,700	96,100	96,900	1,600	1.66%	800	0.83%
Professional and Business Services	224,500	223,300	220,600	1,200	0.54%	3,900	1.77%
Education and Health Services	219,300	217,100	215,300	2,200	1.01%	4,000	1.86%
Leisure and Hospitality	211,400	213,600	209,100	-2,200	-1.03%	2,300	1.10%
Government	336,000	332,500	341,100	3,500	1.05%	-5,100	-1.50%

Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

October 2011

INDUSTRY TITLE	October 2011	September 2011	October 2010	September 2011 to October 2011		October 2010 to October 2011	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	1,832,500	1,823,100	1,817,500	9,400	0.52%	15,000	0.83%
Anderson MSA	61,500	60,100	60,100	1,400	2.33%	1,400	2.33%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	287,800	286,300	285,100	1,500	0.52%	2,700	0.95%
Columbia MSA	348,500	346,200	343,000	2,300	0.66%	5,500	1.60%
Florence MSA	83,400	82,600	82,400	800	0.97%	1,000	1.21%
Greenville MSA	299,000	300,300	296,500	-1,300	-0.43%	2,500	0.84%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	118,600	119,900	115,700	-1,300	-1.08%	2,900	2.51%
Spartanburg MSA	119,900	117,900	119,100	2,000	1.70%	800	0.67%
Sumter MSA	37,000	36,700	37,100	300	0.82%	-100	-0.27%

Note: Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

AREA		October 2011				September 2011				October 2010			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Allendale County	↓	3,397	2,756	641	18.9	3,360	2,716	644	19.2	3,364	2,757	607	18.0
Marion County	↓	12,429	10,125	2,304	18.5	12,496	10,032	2,464	19.7	12,465	10,049	2,416	19.4
Marlboro County	↓	11,571	9,586	1,985	17.2	11,704	9,496	2,208	18.9	11,596	9,600	1,996	17.2
Union County	↓	11,345	9,451	1,894	16.7	11,271	9,339	1,932	17.1	11,362	9,392	1,970	17.3
Barnwell County	↓	8,665	7,308	1,357	15.7	8,645	7,233	1,412	16.3	8,758	7,303	1,455	16.6
Chester County	↓	14,478	12,256	2,222	15.3	14,572	12,168	2,404	16.5	14,660	12,162	2,498	17.0
Bamberg County	↓	6,402	5,427	975	15.2	6,391	5,384	1,007	15.8	6,370	5,428	942	14.8
Orangeburg County	↓	40,687	34,622	6,065	14.9	40,822	34,362	6,460	15.8	40,546	34,520	6,026	14.9
Dillon County	↓	13,675	11,675	2,000	14.6	13,749	11,582	2,167	15.8	13,653	11,657	1,996	14.6
Clarendon County	↓	12,985	11,096	1,889	14.5	12,952	10,949	2,003	15.5	13,030	11,069	1,961	15.0
McCormick County	↓	3,288	2,823	465	14.1	3,301	2,804	497	15.1	3,313	2,824	489	14.8
Hampton County	↓	8,060	6,933	1,127	14.0	7,980	6,848	1,132	14.2	8,022	6,928	1,094	13.6
Lancaster County	↓	30,082	25,964	4,118	13.7	30,280	25,761	4,519	14.9	30,169	25,774	4,395	14.6
Williamsburg County	↓	16,166	13,973	2,193	13.6	16,120	13,820	2,300	14.3	16,061	13,894	2,167	13.5
Lee County	↓	8,334	7,228	1,106	13.3	8,324	7,163	1,161	13.9	8,314	7,194	1,120	13.5
Chesterfield County	↓	18,560	16,169	2,391	12.9	18,614	15,990	2,624	14.1	18,594	16,084	2,510	13.5
Cherokee County	↓	24,465	21,345	3,120	12.8	24,408	21,093	3,315	13.6	24,448	21,180	3,268	13.4
Colleton County	↓	17,645	15,420	2,225	12.6	17,618	15,233	2,385	13.5	17,590	15,354	2,236	12.7
Calhoun County	↓	6,861	6,010	851	12.4	6,878	5,961	917	13.3	6,662	5,885	777	11.7
York County	↓	112,286	98,676	13,610	12.1	114,613	98,278	16,335	14.3	112,533	97,288	15,245	13.5
Darlington County	↓	31,027	27,437	3,590	11.6	30,971	27,198	3,773	12.2	30,641	27,029	3,612	11.8
Fairfield County	↓	10,799	9,564	1,235	11.4	10,784	9,485	1,299	12.0	10,781	9,363	1,418	13.2
Abbeville County	↓	10,854	9,623	1,231	11.3	10,811	9,502	1,309	12.1	10,923	9,550	1,373	12.6
Greenwood County	↓	30,402	26,972	3,430	11.3	30,252	26,696	3,556	11.8	30,378	26,855	3,523	11.6
Sumter County	↓	45,312	40,364	4,948	10.9	45,162	39,955	5,207	11.5	45,399	40,152	5,247	11.6
Florence County	↓	64,077	57,394	6,683	10.4	63,943	56,895	7,048	11.0	63,570	56,540	7,030	11.1
Horry County	↓	132,960	119,144	13,816	10.4	134,864	120,695	14,169	10.5	130,681	116,160	14,521	11.1
Georgetown County	↓	30,302	27,215	3,087	10.2	30,211	26,978	3,233	10.7	30,468	27,004	3,464	11.4
Laurens County	↓	32,178	28,987	3,191	9.9	32,316	29,021	3,295	10.2	32,202	28,591	3,611	11.2
Spartanburg County	↓	135,969	122,455	13,514	9.9	134,844	120,639	14,205	10.5	135,335	120,911	14,424	10.7
Berkeley County	↓	82,260	74,211	8,049	9.8	81,950	73,709	8,241	10.1	81,083	73,120	7,963	9.8
Newberry County	↓	18,221	16,458	1,763	9.7	18,262	16,359	1,903	10.4	18,353	16,451	1,902	10.4
Edgefield County	↓	11,140	10,068	1,072	9.6	11,139	10,001	1,138	10.2	11,259	10,108	1,151	10.2
Saluda County	↑	9,134	8,261	873	9.6	8,947	8,193	754	8.4	8,938	8,088	850	9.5
Oconee County	↓	30,755	27,823	2,932	9.5	30,690	27,563	3,127	10.2	30,942	27,639	3,303	10.7
Anderson County	↓	86,237	78,230	8,007	9.3	85,303	76,885	8,418	9.9	85,602	76,476	9,126	10.7
Kershaw County	↓	29,941	27,202	2,739	9.1	29,879	26,979	2,900	9.7	29,663	26,633	3,030	10.2
Richland County	↓	182,230	166,210	16,020	8.8	182,311	164,846	17,465	9.6	179,778	162,730	17,048	9.5
Pickens County	↓	57,246	52,260	4,986	8.7	57,507	52,322	5,185	9.0	56,957	51,547	5,410	9.5
Jasper County	↓	10,305	9,416	889	8.6	10,295	9,306	989	9.6	10,351	9,383	968	9.4
Aiken County	↓	76,436	69,920	6,516	8.5	76,778	69,456	7,322	9.5	76,584	70,203	6,381	8.3
Dorchester County	↓	64,914	59,403	5,511	8.5	64,764	59,001	5,763	8.9	64,512	58,529	5,983	9.3
Beaufort County	↓	65,023	59,697	5,326	8.2	64,623	59,002	5,621	8.7	65,115	59,488	5,627	8.6
Greenville County	↓	224,328	206,306	18,022	8.0	225,701	206,550	19,151	8.5	223,519	203,489	20,030	9.0
Charleston County	↓	176,824	162,770	14,054	7.9	176,887	161,669	15,218	8.6	175,730	160,376	15,354	8.7
Lexington County	↓	134,743	124,533	10,210	7.6	134,287	123,511	10,776	8.0	132,458	121,925	10,533	8.0
Charleston MSA	↓	323,999	296,385	27,614	8.5	323,602	294,380	29,222	9.0	321,325	292,025	29,300	9.1
Columbia MSA	↓	373,708	341,780	31,928	8.5	373,086	338,975	34,111	9.1	368,281	334,624	33,657	9.1
Florence MSA	↓	95,104	84,831	10,273	10.8	94,914	84,093	10,821	11.4	94,211	83,569	10,642	11.3
Greenville MSA	↓	313,752	287,553	26,199	8.4	315,524	287,893	27,631	8.8	312,679	283,627	29,052	9.3
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,169,497	1,941,778	227,719	10.5	2,169,042	1,931,712	237,330	10.9	2,161,171	1,925,262	235,909	10.9

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
- Unemployment Rate =