

INSIGHTS

March 2011

S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

March 2011		
	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	153,406,000	2,151,640
Employed	139,864,000	1,939,200
Unemployed	13,542,000	212,440
Unemployment Rate	8.8%	9.9%
Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States	S.C.
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 952.16	\$ 706.00
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.5	41.8
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.51	\$ 16.89
Job Growth (Year Over Year)		
Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville MSA		% Change
		1.73%
Columbia MSA		0.12%
Greenville MSA		1.68%
Labor Force Participation Rate		
	2011	2010
U.S. Participation Rate	64.2%	64.9%
S.C. Participation Rate	60.6%	61.6%
Employment to Population Ratio		
	2011	2010
U.S. Population Ratio	58.5%	58.6%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.6%	54.6%
Taxable Sales		
	2011	2010
S.C. Net Taxable Sales	\$ 4.308 B	\$ 3.972 B
United States Consumer Price Index		
12-month CPI	2.7%	

In the News

Palmetto Workforce Connections has been developed to provide workforce employment news.



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

Employment
3,746 ↑

Unemployment
6,945 ↓

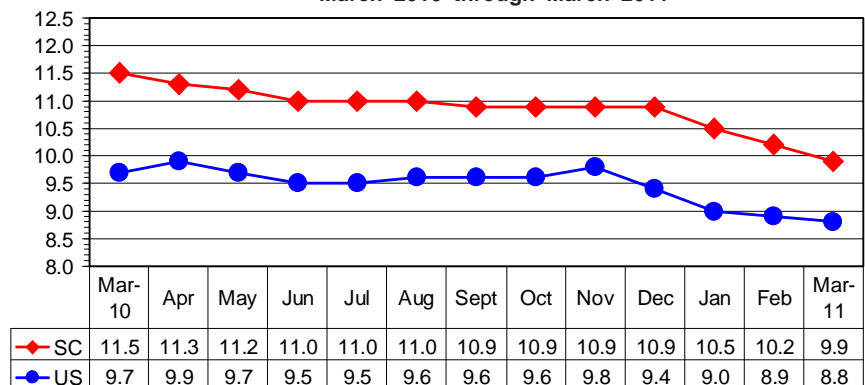
Unemployment
Rate -0.3% ↓

Unemployment Rate Under 10 Percent for First Time in Two Years

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 9.9 percent in March, which is the lowest the state has achieved since its all time high of 11.8 percent in 2009. Since December 2010, the rate has declined one full percentage point, a drop of 1.6 percent from a year ago.

Along with this positive trend, the state has seen seven consecutive months of increased employment. Estimates show approximately 18,126 more people are working in South Carolina compared to March of 2010. This rapid improvement indicates South Carolina's employment situation is on the mend.

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



The labor force estimate for March is 2,151,639, showing a three-month consecutive decline. As we continue to monitor this trend, we are cautiously optimistic about continued increases in employment for the state.

Regional Changes in Unemployment Rates

States	Mar. 2011	Feb. 2011	% Change	Mar. 2010	% Change
Florida	11.1	11.5	-0.4	11.3	-0.2
Georgia	10.0	10.2	-0.2	10.2	-0.2
South Carolina	9.9	10.2	-0.3	11.5	-1.6
North Carolina	9.7	9.8	-0.1	11.3	-1.6
Tennessee	9.5	9.5	0.0	10.2	-0.7
Virginia	6.3	6.4	-0.1	7.1	-0.8



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.

March Unemployment Rates by County

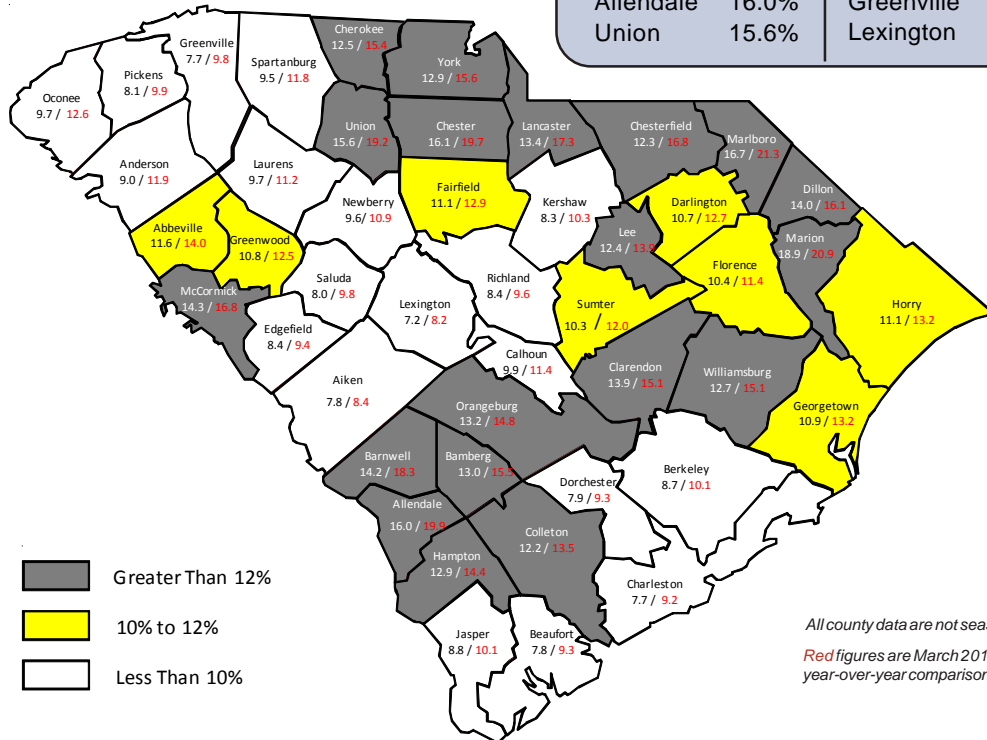
Comparing February to March data, all county estimates not seasonally adjusted, across the state saw rate declines. The largest declines in the past year were:

- Marlboro
- Chesterfield
- Barnwell

The largest employment improvements in the past year were:

- Horry
- Beaufort
- Greenville

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	18.9%	Aiken	7.8%
Marlboro	16.7%	Beaufort	7.8%
Chester	16.1%	Charleston	7.7%
Allendale	16.0%	Greenville	7.7%
Union	15.6%	Lexington	7.2%

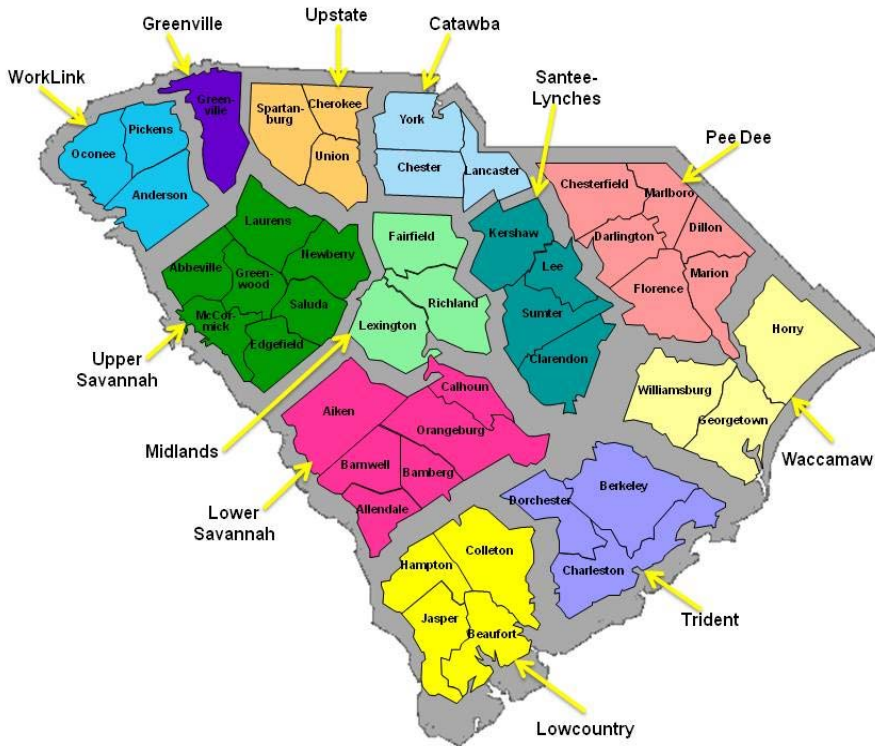


All county data are not seasonally adjusted.
Red figures are March 2010 data points for year-over-year comparisons.

State	Unemployment Rates
Nevada	13.2
California	12.0
Florida	11.1
Rhode Island	11.0
Michigan	10.3
Kentucky	10.2
Mississippi	10.2
Georgia	10.0
Oregon	10.0
South Carolina	9.9
Idaho	9.7
North Carolina	9.7
Arizona	9.5
D.C.	9.5
Tennessee	9.5
New Jersey	9.3
Alabama	9.2
Colorado	9.2
Washington	9.2
Connecticut	9.1
Missouri	9.1
West Virginia	9.1
Ohio	8.9
Illinois	8.8
Indiana	8.5
Delaware	8.4
Louisiana	8.1
New Mexico	8.1
Texas	8.1
Massachusetts	8.0
New York	8.0
Arkansas	7.8
Pennsylvania	7.8
Maine	7.6
Utah	7.6
Alaska	7.4
Montana	7.4
Wisconsin	7.4
Maryland	6.9
Kansas	6.8
Minnesota	6.6
Hawaii	6.3
Virginia	6.3
Wyoming	6.2
Iowa	6.1
Oklahoma	6.1
Vermont	5.4
New Hampshire	5.2
South Dakota	4.9
Nebraska	4.2
North Dakota	3.6

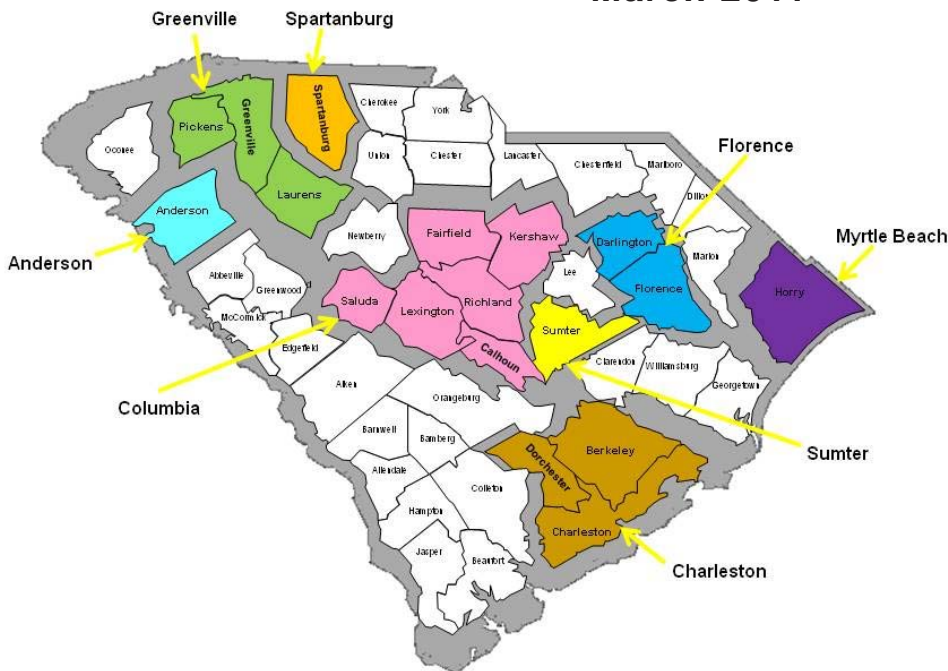
Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed	
	March 2011	March 2010		March 2011	March 2010		March 2011	March 2010
Abbeville	1,244	1,569	Darlington	3,249	3,932	Lee	1,007	1,155
Aiken	5,959	6,483	Dillon	1,871	2,195	Lexington	9,501	11,006
Allendale	513	664	Dorchester	5,085	5,937	Marion	2,302	2,620
Anderson	7,726	10,193	Edgefield	928	1,057	Marlboro	1,902	2,579
Bamberg	797	992	Fairfield	1,175	1,407	Mccormick	465	569
Barnwell	1,194	1,621	Florence	6,582	7,294	Newberry	1,724	2,037
Beaufort	4,982	5,691	Georgetown	3,250	3,929	Oconee	2,951	3,942
Berkeley	7,012	8,134	Greenville	17,257	22,016	Orangeburg	5,175	6,129
Charleston	13,417	16,062	Greenwood	3,231	3,859	Pickens	4,568	5,669
Cherokee	3,014	3,883	Horry	14,518	16,868	Richland	15,047	17,421
Chester	2,321	2,994	Jasper	894	988	Saluda	709	889
Chesterfield	2,224	3,231	Kershaw	2,439	3,085	Spartanburg	12,772	16,015
Clarendon	1,774	1,904	Lancaster	3,984	5,391	Sumter	4,669	5,434
Colleton	2,113	2,302	Laurens	3,095	3,606	Union	1,718	2,221
						Williamsburg	1,993	2,385
						York	14,494	18,088

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) March 2011



Catawba WIA www.catawbacog.org	13.3%
Greenville WIA www.greenvillewib.com	7.7%
Lowcountry WIA www.lowcountryworkforce.org	9.1%
Lower Savannah WIA www.lswia.org	10.2%
Midlands WIA www.midlandsworkforce.org	8.0%
Pee Dee WIA www.peedeewib.org	12.2%
Santee-Lynches WIA www.slworkforcedev.org	10.4%
Trident WIA www.toscc.org	8.0%
Upper Savannah WIA www.us1stops.com	10.0%
Upstate WIA www.upstatawib.org	10.3%
Waccamaw WIA www.wrcog.org	11.2%
Worklink WIA www.worklinkweb.com	8.8%

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) March 2011



Anderson MSA	9.0%
Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville MSA	8.0%
Columbia MSA	8.0%
Florence MSA	10.5%
Greenville MSA	8.0%
Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway MSA	11.1%
Spartanburg MSA	9.5%
Sumter MSA	10.3%

Lowcountry WIA Top 20 Employers

- Beaufort Memorial Hospital
- Bi-Lo, Inc.
- Carecore National LLC
- Colleton County
- Colleton County School District
- County Of Beaufort
- Cypress Club, Inc.
- Department Of Defense
- Hampton County School District One
- Hargray Communications Group, Inc.
- Jasper County School District
- Marine Corps Community Services
- Marriott Resorts Hosp Corp.
- OS Restaurant Services, Inc.
- Publix Super Markets, Inc.
- Tenet Physician Services Of Hilton Head
- U.S. Postal Service
- Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.
- Walterboro Community Hospital, Inc.

Source: QCEW2009 data

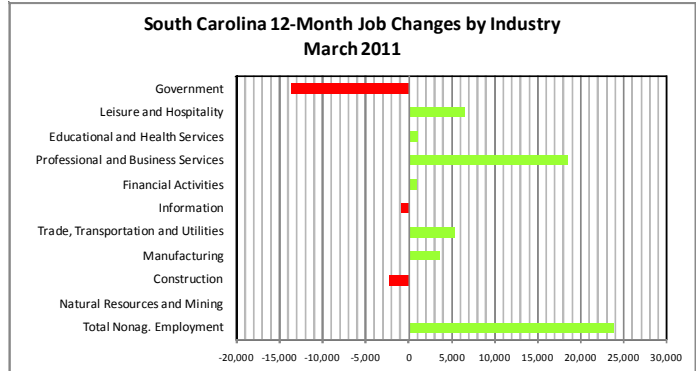
South Carolina Industry Direction

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website in February alone, South Carolina experienced the largest month-to-month percentage increase in jobs in the nation followed by California, Delaware, Oregon and Rhode Island. The upward trend in jobs continued into March with 15,700 jobs (not seasonally adjusted). The two main areas of jobs improvement were in Leisure and Hospitality (10,000) and Retail Trade (3,900).

Of the state's MSA's, Myrtle Beach showed the largest gains (+5,300), followed by Columbia (+2,700), Charleston (+2,500), and Greenville (+1,400).

Over the year, the net increase in job estimates was 23,800. Employment Services (+12,000), Leisure & Hospitality (+6,400), and Health Care & Social Assistance (+4,100) accounted for the majority of these gains, while state and local governments have seen job declines (-13,100). Slightly over a third of the decline (-4,700) has been associated with Education Services at the state and local level.

Transportation industry indicators for trucking activity, rail activity, and diesel fuel consumption still bode well for movement of raw materials, work-in-process, and finished goods to factories, retailers, and consumers. Nationally, retail sales activity has increased for nine consecutive months.



Industry	March 2011	March 2010	Net Change
Total Nonag. Employment	1,812,500	1,788,700	23,800
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,000	100
Construction	75,900	78,200	-2,300
Manufacturing	209,800	206,200	3,600
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	345,800	340,500	5,300
Information	25,400	26,300	-900
Financial Activities	97,900	97,000	900
Professional and Business Services	223,100	204,600	18,500
Educational and Health Services	219,100	211,900	7,200
Leisure and Hospitality	206,500	200,100	6,400
Government	337,800	351,500	-13,700

A Positive Trend for Unemployment Initial Claims

S.C. Unemployment Activities	
Total Initial Claims	22,519
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$38,473,774
UI Benefits Exhausted	5,482
Avg. Duration Benefits Paid (wks.)	16.4
Avg. Wkly. Benefits Amount	\$236.50

The average initial claims in March have decreased 2,889 since the same time last year, indicating a positive trend. This is a significant drop from a high of 57,767 in 2008. Benefits paid also decreased \$1,851,122 since February 2011. The average duration of benefits paid has declined from a high of 17.0 weeks to 16.4 weeks.

