

INSIGHTS

October 2011

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

	United States	SC
Labor Force	154,198,000	2,169,497
Employed	140,302,000	1,941,778
Unemployed	13,987,000	227,719
Unemployment Rate	9.0%	10.5%

Average Hours & Earnings

Manufacturing	United States	SC
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 967.95	\$ 702.18
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.5	42.3
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.90	\$ 16.60

Job Growth (Year over Year)

	% Change
Anderson MSA	2.33%
Columbia MSA	2.65%
Greenville MSA	1.30%
Myrtle Beach MSA	2.51%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	2011	2010
U.S.	64.2%	64.5%
S.C.	60.8%	61.0%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2011	2010
U.S.	58.4%	58.3%
S.C.	54.4%	54.4%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	3.5%
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In the News

Coming Soon!

The 2010 Mass Layoff Statistics Report is being developed to provide annual data on tracking South Carolina's unemployed.



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

Employment
10,066



Unemployment
9,611



Unemployment
Rate 10.5%



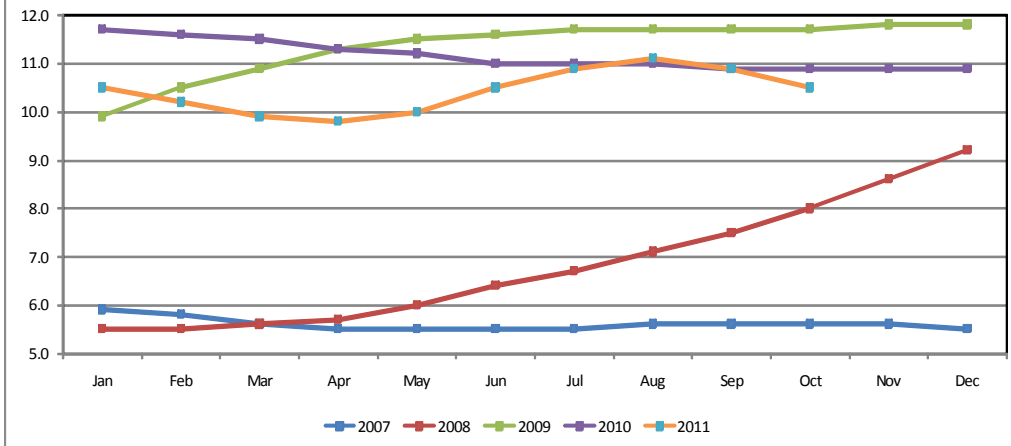
South Carolina Unemployment Rate Drops

South Carolina'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. The national unemployment rate dipped slightly from 9.1 percent to 9.0 percent.

The lower unemployment rate was attributed to a healthy increase in employment and fewer people looking for work during the month. This was the first September-to-October decline in the state's rate in five years. It also marked the largest drop (from September to October) since 1976.

The labor force showed little change over the month, at approximately 2,169,500. With 10,066 people finding jobs, the total number of employed South Carolinians grew to 1,941,778. As the number of unemployed people declined over the month by about 9,600, the total unemployed estimate fell to 227,719. This was a decrease of 8,200 in the number of people unemployed compared to a year ago.

SC Unemployment Rate 2007-2011

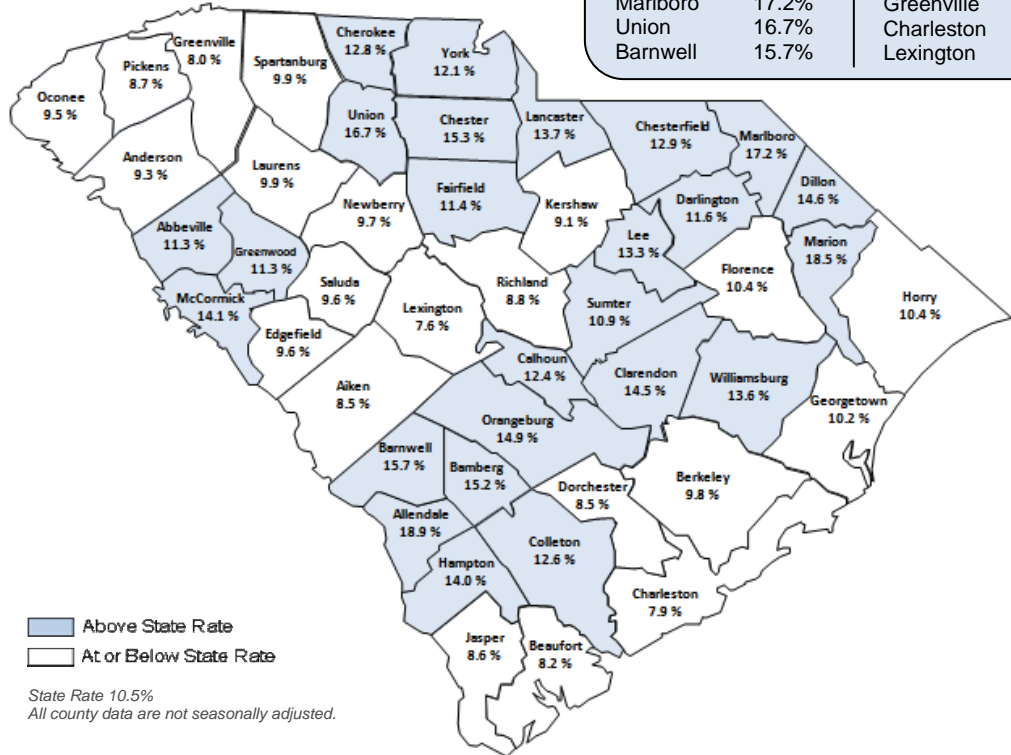


Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2010 benchmark.

October Unemployment Rates by County

County unemployment rates declined in 45 of 46 counties from September to October. Thirty-five counties declined, four held steady, and seven counties saw increases over the past 12 months. In October, estimated unemployment rates ranged from 18.9 percent to 7.6 percent.

Highest County Unemployment Rate		Lowest County Unemployment Rate	
Allendale	18.9%	Dorchester	8.5%
Marion	18.5%	Beaufort	8.2%
Marlboro	17.2%	Greenville	8.0%
Union	16.7%	Charleston	7.9%
Barnwell	15.7%	Lexington	7.6%

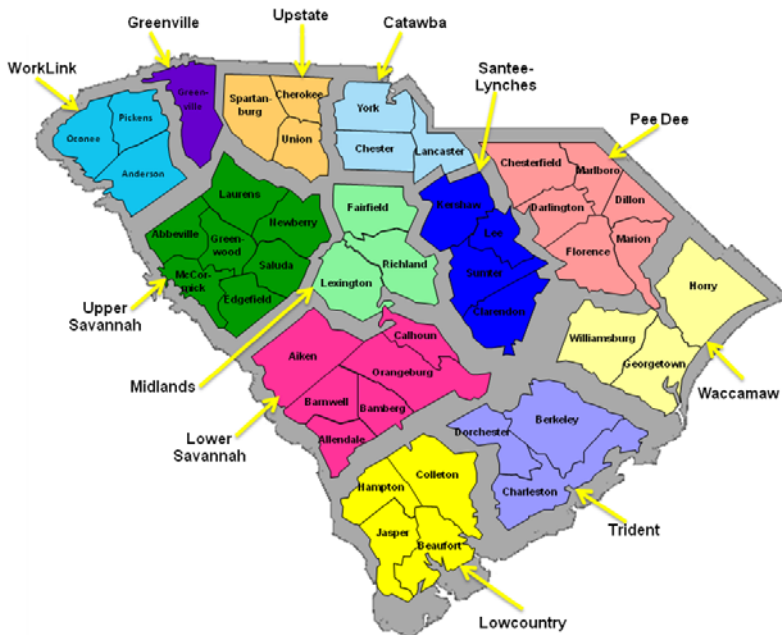


State Unemployment Rates

Nevada	13.4
California	11.7
D.C.	11.0
Michigan	10.6
Mississippi	10.6
South Carolina	10.5
North Carolina	10.4
Rhode Island	10.4
Florida	10.3
Georgia	10.2
Illinois	10.1
Kentucky	9.6
Tennessee	9.6
Oregon	9.5
Alabama	9.3
New Jersey	9.1
Arizona	9.0
Indiana	9.0
Ohio	9.0
Washington	9.0
Idaho	8.8
Connecticut	8.7
Missouri	8.5
Texas	8.4
Arkansas	8.2
West Virginia	8.2
Colorado	8.1
Pennsylvania	8.1
Delaware	7.9
New York	7.9
Wisconsin	7.7
Montana	7.6
Alaska	7.4
Maine	7.3
Massachusetts	7.3
Maryland	7.2
Louisiana	7.0
Utah	7.0
Kansas	6.7
New Mexico	6.6
Hawaii	6.5
Minnesota	6.4
Virginia	6.4
Oklahoma	6.1
Iowa	6.0
Wyoming	5.7
Vermont	5.6
New Hampshire	5.3
South Dakota	4.5
Nebraska	4.2
North Dakota	3.5

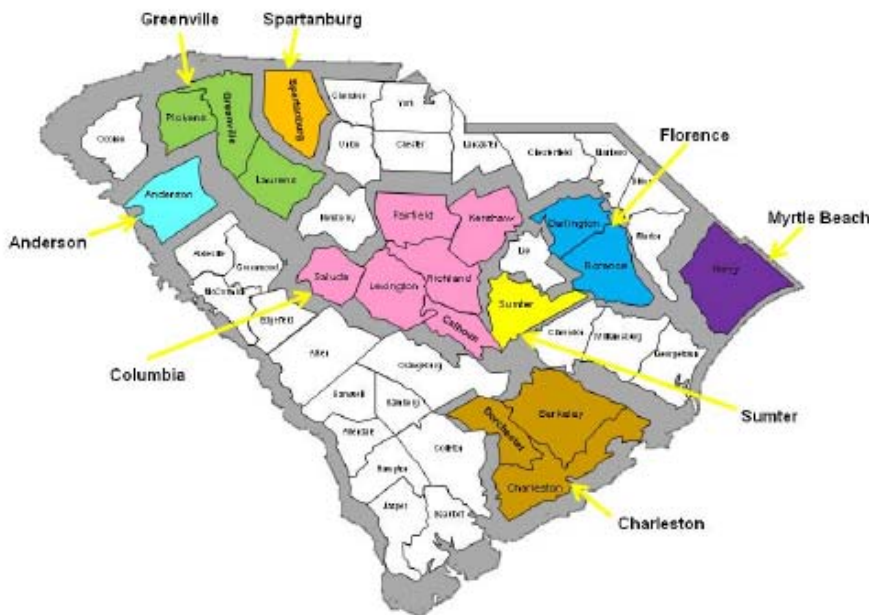
Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed		Areas	Unemployed	
	October 2011	October 2010		October 2011	October 2010		October 2011	October 2010
Abbeville	1,231	1,373	Darlington	3,590	3,612	Lee	1,106	1,120
Aiken	6,516	6,381	Dillon	2,000	1,996	Lexington	10,210	10,533
Allendale	641	607	Dorchester	5,511	5,983	Marion	2,304	2,416
Anderson	8,007	9,126	Edgefield	1,072	1,151	Marlboro	1,985	1,996
Bamberg	975	942	Fairfield	1,235	1,418	McCormick	465	489
Barnwell	1,357	1,455	Florence	6,683	7,030	Newberry	1,763	1,902
Beaufort	5,326	5,627	Georgetown	3,087	3,464	Oconee	2,932	3,303
Berkeley	8,049	7,963	Greenville	18,022	20,030	Orangeburg	6,065	6,026
Calhoun	851	777	Greenwood	3,430	3,523	Pickens	4,986	5,410
Charleston	14,054	15,354	Hampton	1,127	1,094	Richland	16,020	17,048
Cherokee	3,120	3,268	Horry	13,816	14,521	Saluda	873	850
Chester	2,222	2,498	Jasper	889	968	Spartanburg	13,514	14,424
Chesterfield	2,391	2,510	Kershaw	2,739	3,030	Sumter	4,948	5,247
Clarendon	1,889	1,961	Lancaster	4,118	4,395	Union	1,894	1,970
Colleton	2,225	2,236	Laurens	3,191	3,611	Williamsburg	2,193	2,167
						York	13,610	15,245

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) October 2011



Catawba WIA	12.7%
www.catawbacog.org	
Greenville WIA	8.0%
www.greenvillewib.com	
Lowcountry WIA	9.5%
www.lowcountryworkforce.org	
Lower Savannah WIA	11.5%
www.lswia.org	
Midlands WIA	8.4%
www.midlandsworkforce.org	
Pee Dee WIA	12.5%
www.peedeewib.org	
Santee-Lynches WIA	11.1%
www.slworkforcedev.org	
Trident WIA	8.5%
www.toscc.org	
Upper Savannah WIA	10.4%
www.us1stops.com	
Upstate WIA	10.8%
www.upstatewib.org	
Waccamaw WIA	10.6%
www.wrcog.org	
Worklink WIA	9.1%
www.worklinkweb.com	

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) October 2011



Anderson MSA	9.3%
Charleston - North	
Charleston - Summerville MSA	8.5%
Columbia MSA	8.5%
Florence MSA	10.8%
Greenville MSA	8.4%
Myrtle Beach - North Myrtle Beach - Conway MSA	10.4%
Spartanburg MSA	9.9%
Sumter MSA	10.9%

South Carolina Employment Trends

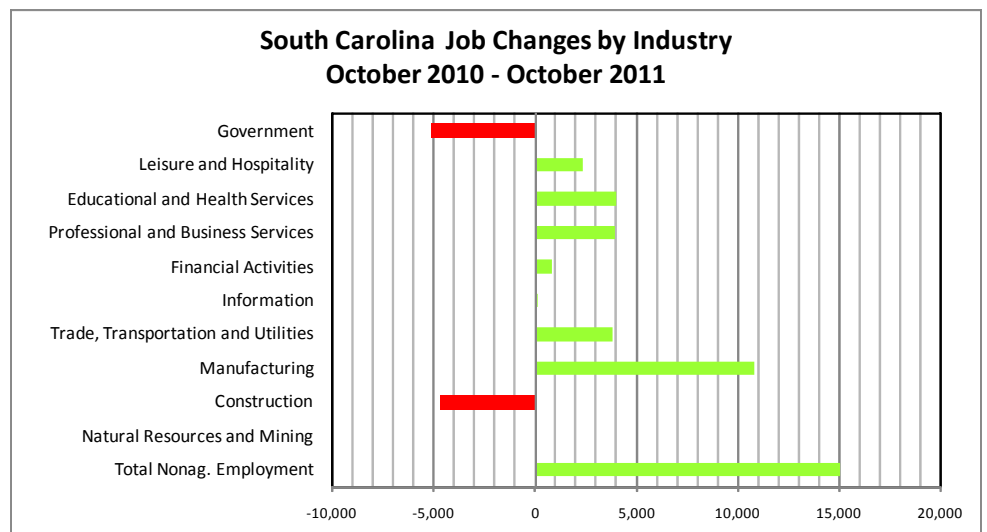
Nonfarm employment increased 9,400 from September to October. This gain reversed a three-month decline. Manufacturing continued its upward trend, climbing 600 since last month. Over the year, nonfarm employment showed an increase of 15,000, with Durable Goods accounting for 56 percent of the increase. Total Manufacturing also experienced a rise of 10,800 since last October.

The largest industry sector increases were in Government (+3,500), Education and Health Services (+2,200), and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+2,100). Most of the increase in Government was due to Local Government Education Services as schools continued hiring. Two sectors saw decreases: Leisure and Hospitality (-2,200) and Natural Resources and Mining (-100).

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

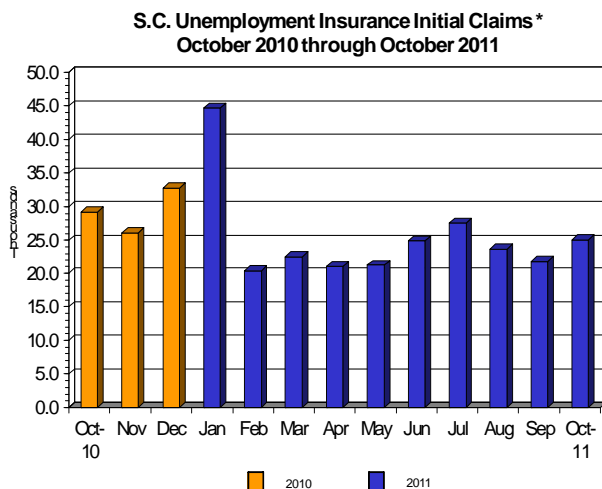
Of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Columbia (+1,800), Spartanburg (+1,500), Anderson (+1,400), Florence (+800), and Sumter (+300) showed job gains. Greenville (-1,300) and Myrtle Beach (-1,300) declined.

The average work week in manufacturing increased 1.9 percent since last year, to an average of 42.3 hours. Weekly manufacturing pay increased approximately \$11.20 (or 1.6 percent) over the year.



October Initial Unemployment Claims

There were 25,026 initial claims filed in October, which was 4,158 fewer claims than in October 2010, continuing a positive trend. This was a significant drop from a high reported in January 2009 of 84,103. Unemployment benefits paid decreased \$2,494,497 from October a year ago. Also, the average duration of benefits paid declined from a high of 17.5 weeks last October to 15.6 weeks this October.



Total Initial Claims*	25,026
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$ 37,359,242
UI Benefits Exhausted	5,832
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	15.6
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$ 239.10
*All Programs	