



South Carolina's Employment Situation - May 2010

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South Carolina's Unemployment Rate Continues to Decline

South Carolina's unemployment rate declined for the fourth straight month to 11.0 % in May, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce reported today. This was down significantly from the revised April rate of 11.5%. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, South Carolina's labor force (employed + unemployed persons) declined 7,686 in May to 2,158,803, thus reflecting a decline for the third month in a row. The labor force is now approximately 26,500 less than in May of 2009.

Total employment increased by 3,302 for the month to 1,920,479.

The national jobless rate decreased two-tenths of a percent in April to 9.7%, primarily due to people leaving the labor force.

A separate establishment-based survey showed the number of non-farm jobs increasing by 22,100 in May, with increases in 9 major industry divisions. Gains were recorded in Retail Trade +900, Leisure and Hospitality +5,500, and Professional and Business Services +2,100. Job increases were also measured in Manufacturing +800, Construction +800, and Financial Activities +1,900 over the month. Government posted a gain of +9,700 with Census hiring reflecting approximately 8,500 of the gain.

“We are encouraged by the trends of the last few months while, at the same time, cautious since state and local budgets face serious shortfalls and the national economy remains fragile,” said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director John Finan. “With that in mind, we at SC DEW have pledged to work harder than ever with our workforce system partners to better connect the state's job-seekers with viable employment opportunities,” Finan concluded.

S. C. Department of Employment and Workforce John L. Finan, Executive Director

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
May -2010

Industry	May 2010	April 2010	May 2009	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,847,000	1,824,900	1,837,900	22,100	9,100
Natural Resources and Mining	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	200
Construction	78,800	78,000	89,300	800	-10,500
Manufacturing	208,100	207,300	213,800	800	-5,700
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	346,000	345,500	350,500	500	-4,500
Information	27,700	27,600	27,500	100	200
Financial Activities	103,300	101,400	102,100	1,900	1,200
Professional and Business Services	214,700	212,600	198,700	2,100	16,000
Educational and Health Services	210,100	210,400	208,400	-300	1,700
Leisure and Hospitality	213,900	208,400	219,200	5,500	-5,300
Government	369,600	359,900	354,000	9,700	15,600

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank		Unemployment Rate		
		May 2010	April 2010	Change
1	Marion	18.6	18.6	0
2	Allendale	18.3	18.5	-0.2
3	Marlboro	17.6	19.4	-1.8
4	Union	17.2	17.5	-0.3
5	Chester	17.1	18.0	-0.9
6	Barnwell	16.0	16.1	-0.1
7	Lancaster	15.1	16.0	-0.9
8	Bamberg	14.8	15.6	-0.8
9	Dillon	14.5	14.7	-0.2
10	Chesterfield	14.3	15.4	-1.1
11	Clarendon	14.1	13.6	0.5
	McCormick	14.1	14.5	-0.4
13	York	14.0	15.6	-1.6
14	Orangeburg	13.7	13.6	0.1
15	Cherokee	13.5	14.0	-0.5
16	Williamsburg	13.3	13.3	0.0
17	Hampton	13.0	13.0	0.0
	Lee	13.0	12.8	0.2
19	Abbeville	12.6	12.3	0.3
20	Fairfield	12.5	12.1	0.4
21	Colleton	12.3	12.0	0.3
22	Sumter	12.1	11.4	0.7
23	Darlington	11.8	11.3	0.5
24	Greenwood	11.4	11.1	0.3
25	Georgetown	11.1	11.2	-0.1
	Oconee	11.1	10.9	0.2
27	Anderson	11.0	10.6	0.4
	Spartanburg	11.0	10.8	0.2
29	Laurens	10.9	10.1	0.8
30	Florence	10.7	10.4	0.3
	Horry	10.7	10.8	-0.1
32	Calhoun	10.4	10.0	0.4
33	Newberry	10.2	10.1	0.1
34	Kershaw	9.6	9.4	0.2
35	Berkeley	9.4	9.0	0.4
	Pickens	9.4	9.2	0.2
	Richland	9.4	8.5	0.9
38	Greenville	9.3	8.9	0.4
39	Saluda	8.9	8.0	0.9
40	Charleston	8.6	8.1	0.5
	Dorchester	8.6	8.3	0.3
42	Jasper	8.5	8.2	0.3
43	Edgefield	8.1	8.9	-0.8
44	Beaufort	7.7	7.2	0.5
45	Lexington	7.6	7.3	0.3
46	Aiken	7.4	8.2	-0.8

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

May-10

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	May 2010	April 2010	May 2009	May 2010	April 2010	May 2009	May 2010	April 2010	May 2009
ABBEVILLE	11,099	10,945	11,527	1,398	1,341	1,690	12.6	12.3	14.7
AIKEN	75,905	76,476	77,851	5,638	6,277	7,613	7.4	8.2	9.8
ALLENDALE	3,369	3,317	3,477	616	615	711	18.3	18.5	20.4
ANDERSON MSA	83,555	83,705	87,011	9,227	8,911	10,735	11.0	10.6	12.3
BAMBERG	6,496	6,468	6,541	961	1,010	1,032	14.8	15.6	15.8
BARNWELL	9,316	9,211	9,236	1,491	1,479	1,487	16.0	16.1	16.1
BEAUFORT	66,514	65,396	64,666	5,144	4,739	5,384	7.7	7.2	8.3
BERKELEY	81,638	80,822	82,303	7,687	7,267	8,616	9.4	9.0	10.5
CALHOUN	6,761	6,739	6,920	700	673	811	10.4	10.0	11.7
CHARLESTON	178,192	176,239	177,581	15,379	14,298	15,349	8.6	8.1	8.6
CHEROKEE	25,285	25,214	26,079	3,415	3,518	4,340	13.5	14.0	16.6
CHESTER	15,302	15,369	16,060	2,611	2,765	3,218	17.1	18.0	20.0
CHESTERFIELD	18,944	18,981	19,279	2,700	2,917	3,152	14.3	15.4	16.3
CLARENDON	12,957	12,719	13,214	1,828	1,730	2,051	14.1	13.6	15.5
COLLETON	17,680	17,382	18,031	2,176	2,094	2,343	12.3	12.0	13.0
DARLINGTON	31,379	31,279	32,087	3,694	3,549	4,364	11.8	11.3	13.6
DILLON	14,266	14,118	14,170	2,072	2,077	2,106	14.5	14.7	14.9
DORCHESTER	64,686	64,147	65,484	5,560	5,338	6,570	8.6	8.3	10.0
EDGEFIELD	11,058	11,152	11,348	894	998	1,189	8.1	8.9	10.5
FAIRFIELD	11,096	11,057	11,305	1,389	1,342	1,520	12.5	12.1	13.4
FLORENCE	63,636	63,510	64,211	6,830	6,611	7,329	10.7	10.4	11.4
GEORGETOWN	31,620	31,239	31,421	3,521	3,485	3,543	11.1	11.2	11.3
GREENVILLE	220,227	219,320	226,238	20,481	19,598	22,889	9.3	8.9	10.1
GREENWOOD	31,512	31,028	31,847	3,578	3,433	4,096	11.4	11.1	12.9
HAMPTON	8,028	7,891	8,176	1,047	1,024	1,254	13.0	13.0	15.3
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	133,756	133,665	135,189	14,316	14,390	14,906	10.7	10.8	11.0
JASPER	10,502	10,346	10,337	897	852	1,059	8.5	8.2	10.2
KERSHAW	29,858	29,794	30,585	2,881	2,794	3,391	9.6	9.4	11.1
LANCASTER	30,220	30,336	31,120	4,578	4,865	5,339	15.1	16.0	17.2
LAURENS	32,303	31,978	33,085	3,536	3,215	3,799	10.9	10.1	11.5
LEE	8,451	8,345	8,754	1,101	1,067	1,293	13.0	12.8	14.8
LEXINGTON	132,487	132,188	134,225	10,084	9,682	10,838	7.6	7.3	8.1
MARION	13,237	13,074	13,442	2,462	2,434	2,834	18.6	18.6	21.1
MARLBORO	11,997	12,125	12,388	2,108	2,352	2,261	17.6	19.4	18.3
McCORMICK	3,415	3,391	3,511	481	492	590	14.1	14.5	16.8
NEWBERRY	18,361	18,091	18,749	1,878	1,830	2,166	10.2	10.1	11.6
OCONEE	31,362	30,998	32,088	3,493	3,391	4,343	11.1	10.9	13.5
ORANGEBURG	41,695	41,113	42,603	5,730	5,591	6,417	13.7	13.6	15.1
PICKENS	56,952	56,840	58,575	5,359	5,253	6,052	9.4	9.2	10.3
RICHLAND	181,469	179,867	182,700	17,065	15,324	16,974	9.4	8.5	9.3
SALUDA	8,941	8,861	9,095	795	709	884	8.9	8.0	9.7
SPARTANBURG MSA	133,067	133,267	137,831	14,694	14,337	16,885	11.0	10.8	12.3
SUMTER MSA	43,471	43,135	45,669	5,244	4,930	5,689	12.1	11.4	12.5
UNION	11,984	11,934	12,626	2,060	2,091	2,561	17.2	17.5	20.3
WILLIAMSBURG	16,120	15,904	16,342	2,139	2,115	2,367	13.3	13.3	14.5
YORK	111,227	113,904	112,333	15,528	17,745	15,160	14.0	15.6	13.5
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	324,517	321,206	325,370	28,627	26,902	30,536	8.8	8.4	9.4
COLA MSA	370,611	368,507	374,829	32,914	30,525	34,417	8.9	8.3	9.2
FLORENCE MSA	95,015	94,789	96,298	10,524	10,160	11,693	11.1	10.7	12.1
GRNV MSA	309,481	308,138	317,897	29,376	28,066	32,739	9.5	9.1	10.3
South Carolina*	2,158.8	2,166.5	2,185.3	238.3	249.3	256.3	11.0	11.5	11.7

* Seasonally Adjusted