



## Construction Indicators Drag Down SCLI

The South Carolina Leading Index (SCLI) gave up 0.22 points in November, closing the month with a value of 101.05. A value greater than 100 predicts economic growth over the next three to six months in South Carolina. Seasonal declines in residential building permit activity, down 19.4 percent last month, and the valuation associated with those permits, down 17.5 percent, were the primary contributors to the change in the SCLI. On a positive note, a 10.5 percent decrease in initial claims for Unemployment Insurance and gains in the stock market buoyed the index last month. The Conference Board's Leading Economic Index for the US increased 0.8 percent in November to 98.3.

-David Clayton

South Carolina Leading Index



Source: South Carolina Department of Commerce

## Majority of Economic Indicators Improve in 2013

The 1.5 percent drop in the unemployment rate between November 2012 to November 2013 and nearly all other indicators point to economic growth for South Carolina during the year. Average hourly earnings have gained 4.1 percent and the number of jobs available online have increased 14.7 percent. Exports from South Carolina have grown 1.4 percent while export volume (TEUs) from the Port of Charleston has surged 9.6 percent. Per capita personal income is up 3.0 percent and the SC Stock Index posted a 41 percent rise. Residential building permits have increased 14.3 percent while the median home price increased 5.3 percent. Among the major economic indicators, only the average manufacturing workweek showed a decline in 2013; however, this points to overall improvement in the labor market as firms have relied less on overtime and more on full time employment to satisfy demand. (All data from Nov. 2012 to Nov. 2013 or 2012Q3 to 2013Q3 as appropriate).

The Research Division at the South Carolina Department of Commerce is a highly-skilled, multidisciplinary team of professionals dedicated to the economic development of South Carolina and the collection, analysis and dissemination of information to support that mission. The Research Division publishes reports and analyses for statewide constituents and proposals for companies considering South Carolina for investment. If you would like to receive Commerce's monthly Economic Outlook, e-mail [dclayton@SCcommerce.com](mailto:dclayton@SCcommerce.com).

## KEY S.C. INDICATORS

### Income

+1.2%

#### State Personal Income

increased to \$170.2 billion in the third quarter of 2013.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

+2.2%

#### South Carolina Stock Index

gained 2.52 points in November, closing at 116.75 on the last trading day of the month.

Bloomberg

### Employment

+0.2%

#### Nonfarm Employment

increased 4,300 non-seasonally adjusted jobs in November from the prior month.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

-0.2%

#### Labor Force

decreased by 3,887 to 2,153,340, seasonally-adjusted, in November.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

-0.4%

#### Unemployment Rate

fell by 0.4 percent to 7.1 percent for the month of November.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

-1.4%

#### Manufacturing Weekly Hours

decreased by 0.6 hours to 41.2 hours in November from 41.8 hours in October.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

+5.0%

#### Available Online Job Postings

increased by 3,100 positions in November to a seasonally-adjusted 64,700 job postings.

The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index

### Real Estate

+1.9%

#### Single-Family Home Sales Price

increased by \$3,000 to \$157,900 in November.

South Carolina Association of Realtors

-19.4%

#### Residential Building Permits

decreased by 427 permits from the previous month to 1,770 permits issued in November.

U.S. Census Bureau



# South Carolina Employment

*Non-Seasonally Adjusted Wage and Salary Employment*

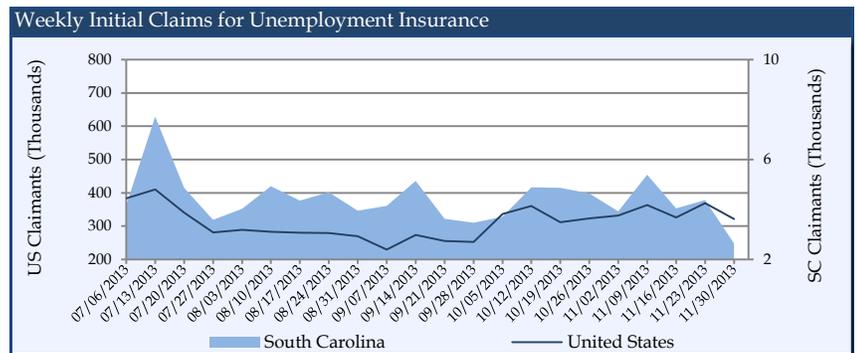
In November, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for South Carolina reached 7.1 percent, just 0.1 percent higher than the national rate. During the year, significant employment gains in the Professional and Business Services (+7,000 jobs); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+6,400 jobs); Construction (+4,800 jobs); and Leisure and Hospitality (+4,700 jobs) all helped push the South Carolina rate lower. Only the Other Services and Natural Resources sectors shed jobs over the last twelve months. Last month, the Manufacturing sector added 1,100 jobs and Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 4,600 jobs.

Industry Sector	November 2013	Previous Month	Previous Year	% Change Month Ago	% Change Year Ago
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>312,300</b>	<b>311,900</b>	<b>304,000</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>2.73</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	3,700	3,700	3,800	0.00	-2.63
Construction	83,400	84,100	78,600	-0.83	6.11
Manufacturing	225,200	224,100	221,600	0.49	1.62
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1,600,300</b>	<b>1,596,400</b>	<b>1,574,100</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>1.66</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	367,500	362,900	361,100	1.27	1.77
Information	25,400	25,300	25,800	0.40	-1.55
Finance	102,100	102,800	100,200	-0.68	1.90
Professional and Business Services	238,400	239,600	231,400	-0.50	3.03
Educational and Health Services	215,500	214,600	211,400	0.42	1.94
Leisure and Hospitality	223,100	225,400	218,400	-1.02	2.15
Other Services	68,300	68,500	70,100	-0.29	-2.57
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,552,600</b>	<b>1,551,000</b>	<b>1,522,400</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>1.98</b>
Government	360,000	357,300	355,700	0.76	1.21
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>1,912,600</b>	<b>1,908,300</b>	<b>1,878,100</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>1.84</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Weekly Unemployment Claims

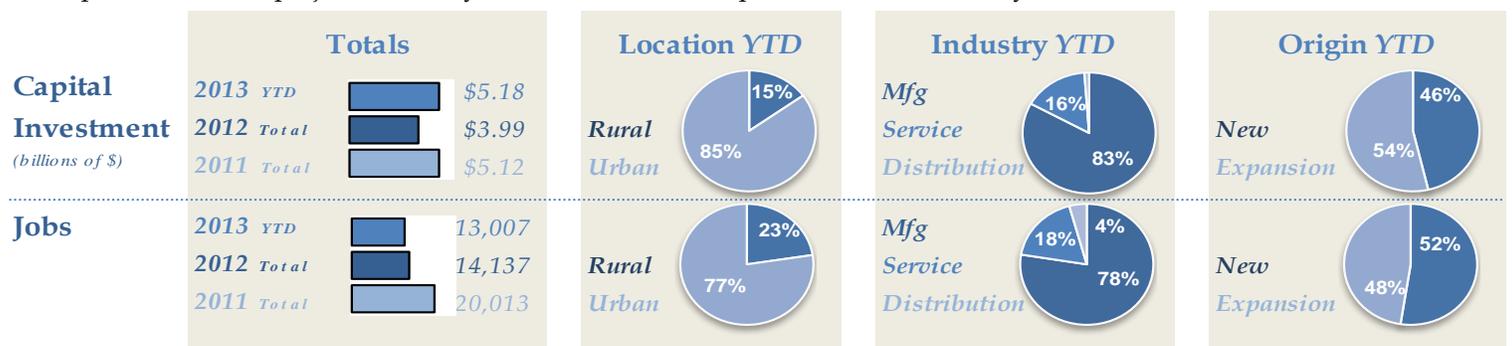
After a 10.5 percent increase in October, the weekly average number of initial claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) declined by 10.0 percent in November to 4,075 claims per week. The November 2013 level of initial UI claims was 11.4 percent lower than the same time last year and 38.3 percent lower than two years ago. Last month, the largest declines in UI claimant activity were in the Charleston and Columbia metros; each experienced a decrease of more than 30 percent. Greenville, Florence and Spartanburg metros had decreases between 12.0 and 17.0 percent while Myrtle Beach saw an increase of 9.4 percent.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

## Capital Investment and Job Recruitment

Capital Investment and Job Recruitment provide preliminary statistics on industry recruitment efforts, detailing upcoming jobs and capital investment projects closed by the South Carolina Department of Commerce year-to-date.



Source: S.C. Department of Commerce Note: Not all closed projects have yet undergone announcement.



# South Carolina Real Estate

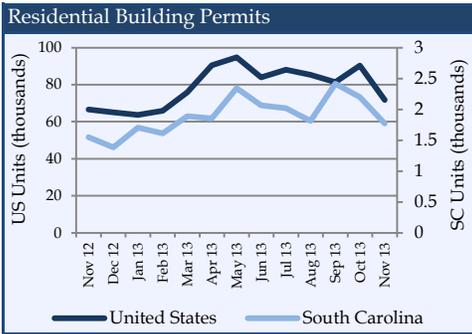
Last month, the median single-family home sales price gained 1.9 percent while the number of residential real estate closings was down 11.7 percent compared to October. The number of building permits issued for new residential construction also saw a normal, seasonal decline of 19.4 percent in November. Year-over-year, building permit volume is up 14.3 percent, home sales are up 0.6 percent and the

median home price is up 5.3 percent. The number of foreclosure filings in South Carolina has continued to decline throughout the year, now down 31.9 percent compared to November 2012.

	Month	Current	Previous Year	% Change Year Ago	2013 YTD	2012 YTD	% Change YTD
Closings	November	4,449	4,424	0.6%	58,326	49,410	18.0%
Median Sales Price*	November	\$157.9	\$149.9	5.3%	\$157.0	\$150.0	4.7%
Foreclosures	November	3,202	4,700	-31.9%	32,395	40,624	-20.3%
Residential Building Permits -Total	November	1,770	1,548	14.3%	21,684	17,699	22.5%
Residential Building Permits -Valuation*	November	\$360,623	\$285,027	26.5%	\$4,177,145	\$3,138,818	33.1%

\* Thousands of US dollars. Source: S.C. Association of Realtors, RealtyTrac, U.S. Census

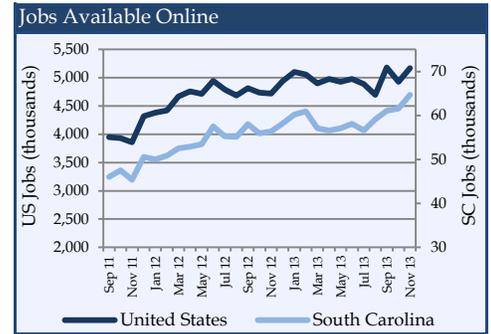
## Business Activity



Source: U.S. Census



Source: U.S. Department of Labor



Source: The Conference Board Help Wanted Online Index



Source: South Carolina Department of Revenue



Source: Bloomberg

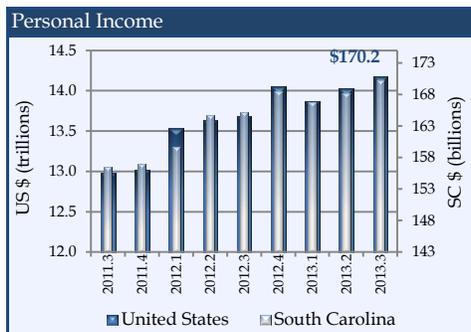


Source: U.S. Department of Labor

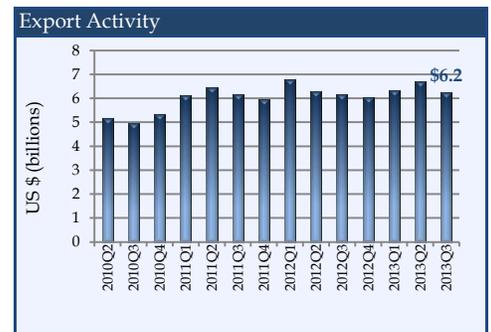
## Income and Output



\*Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units. Source: SC Ports Authority



Source: U.S. Census



Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census



# South Carolina Regional Update

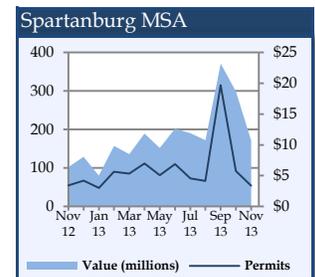
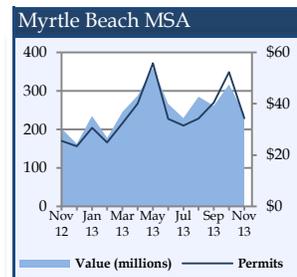
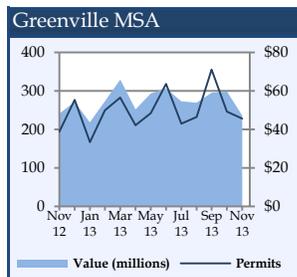
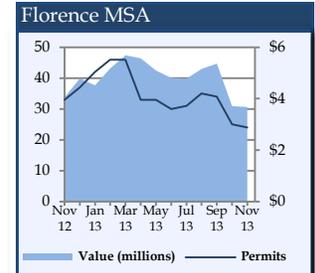
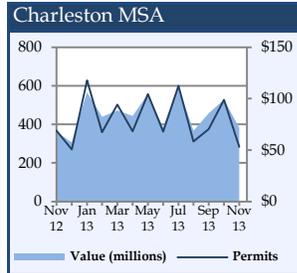
The South Carolina Regional Update provides a snapshot of the most recent economic figures for the six largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the state.

## Home Sales

MSA	Indicator	Nov 12	Nov 13
Charleston	Sales Volume	884	1,123
	Median Price (000's)	\$190	\$208
Columbia	Sales Volume	595	740
	Median Price (000's)	\$145	\$145
Florence	Sales Volume	122	151
	Median Price (000's)	\$126	\$115
Greenville	Sales Volume	614	767
	Median Price (000's)	\$147	\$155
Myrtle Beach	Sales Volume	694	767
	Median Price (000's)	\$137	\$150
Spartanburg	Sales Volume	227	298
	Median Price (000's)	\$124	\$123
South Carolina	Sales Volume	4,424	4,449
	Median Price (000's)	\$149.9	\$157.9

Source: S.C. Association of Realtors

## Building Permits



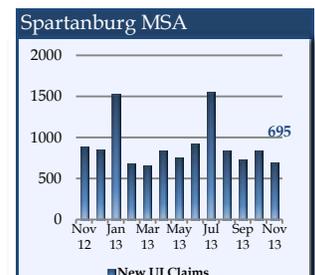
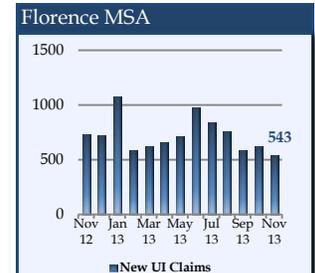
Source: U.S. Census

## Employment

MSA	Indicator	Oct 13	Nov 13
Charleston	Employment (000's)	311.8	311.9
	Unemployment Rate	6.0	5.5
Columbia	Employment (000's)	347.3	348.7
	Unemployment Rate	6.5	5.9
Florence	Employment (000's)	83.9	84.2
	Unemployment Rate	8.4	7.8
Greenville	Employment (000's)	295.5	295.8
	Unemployment Rate	6.0	5.5
Myrtle Beach	Employment (000's)	117.8	115.7
	Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.8
Spartanburg	Employment (000's)	125.0	126.0
	Unemployment Rate	7.0	6.4
South Carolina	Employment (000's)	1,994.4	2,000.8
	Unemployment Rate	7.5	7.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (MSA figures not seasonally adjusted)

## Unemployment Insurance Claims



Source: SCDOC analysis of SCDEW data

## Milken Institute's 2013 Best Performing Cities, Ranking of 200 Large Metro Areas

#11	#122	#47	#79	#128
Charleston	Columbia	Greenville	Spartanburg	Myrtle Beach

Source: Milken Institute, December 2013