Selected BLS Economic Indicators
Charleston

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment, price, and earnings data** for West Virginia, the Charleston Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and the United States. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the retail level. The **Producer Price Index (PPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the wholesale level and is widely used by business firms as an escalator in long-term contracts. The **Employment Cost Index (ECI)** measures price changes, or inflation, of labor costs which includes wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits. The earnings data are from the **Occupational Employment Statistics (OES).**

Consumer Price Index (1982-84) = 100	March 2011	March 2012	Percent change
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			
U.S. City Average	223.467	229.392	2.7
South	217.214	223.314	2.8
South (size class B/C)*	138.211	142.056	2.8
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
U.S. City Average	220.024	226.304	2.9
South	215.272	221.792	3.0
South (size class B/C)*	137.789	141.793	2.9
Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)	**March 2011**	**March 2012**	**Percent change**
Finished goods	189.1	194.4	2.8
All commodities	199.2	204.3	2.6
Industrial commodities	200.4	205.1	2.3

*Southern cities with populations from 50,000 to 1,500,000 (December 1996=100)

Most recent PPI numbers are preliminary.

Employment Cost Index (December 2005) = 100	1st Qtr. 2011	1st Qtr. 2012	Percent change
Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers			
United States	113.3	115.7	2.1
South	113.4	116.0	2.3
South Atlantic	113.8	116.4	2.3

Occupational Wages Selected Occupations	Mean Hourly Earnings May 2011
Charleston	
Total, all occupations	$18.58
Education, training, and library	20.08
Office and administrative support	14.71
Construction and extraction	22.16
Sales and related	14.33
Healthcare practitioners and technical	30.37
Food preparation and serving related	9.56
Production	17.77
Installation, maintenance, and repair	18.89
Transportation and material moving	16.40

Unemployment levels, age 16 years and over
(not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

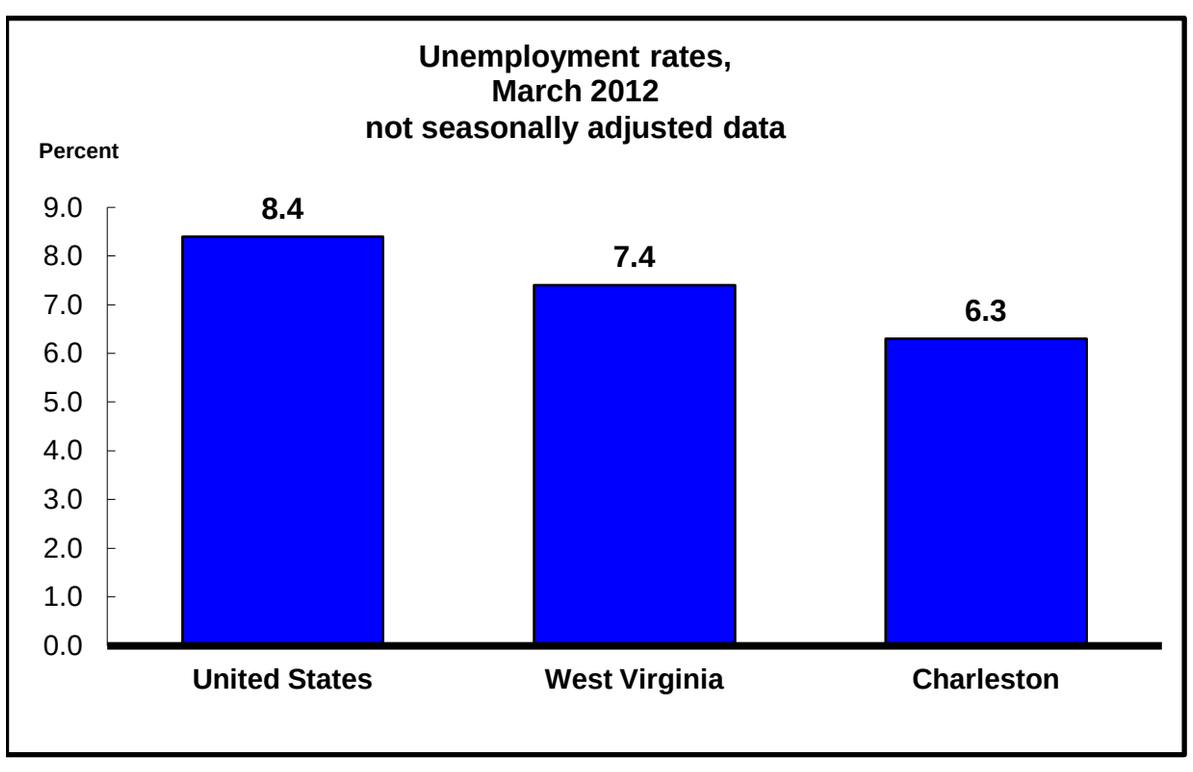
Area	March 2011	March 2012	Net change	Percent change
United States	14,060	12,904	-1,156	-8.2
West Virginia	68.5	58.9	-9.6	-14.0
Charleston	10.6	8.5	-2.1	-20.2

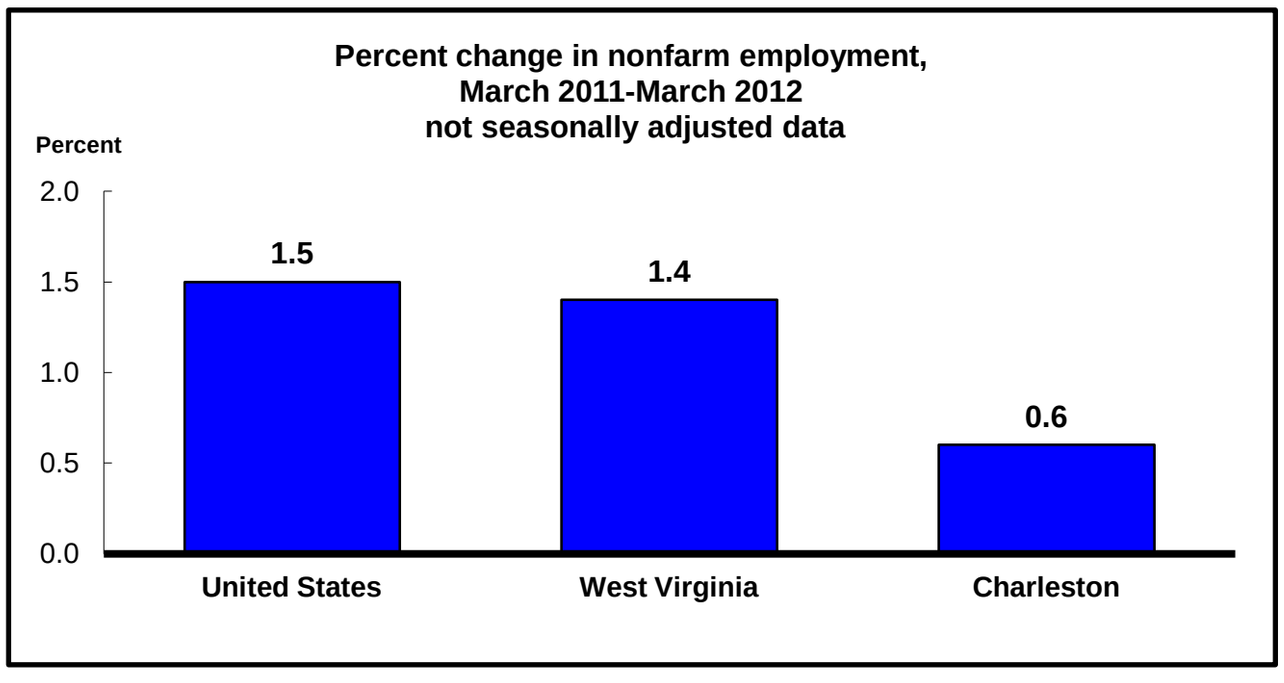
Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Nonfarm payroll employment
(not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

Area	March 2011	March 2012	Net change	Percent change
United States	130,061	132,071	2,010	1.5
West Virginia	744.6	754.8	10.2	1.4
Charleston	146.7	147.6	0.9	0.6

Most recent numbers are preliminary.





The Charleston, W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Lincoln, and Putnam Counties in West Virginia.

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