Expert: Job outlook strong

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CLEMSON — The job outlook heading into the last quarter of 2014 should end on a positive note, according to a Clemson University expert.

In his economic situation report released this week, Bruce Yandle pointed to strong numbers from the Bureau of Labor statistics he said "provide another metric on our expanding economy."



Yandle

Yandle, dean emeritus at Clemson's College of Business and Behavioral Science and Senior Fellow at the Strom Thurmond Institute, said monthly data on the number

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of job openings, the number of jobs quits and the total number hired "reflect the vibrancy of the U.S. labor markets."

Since the economy tanked toward the end of 2009, hiring levels have climbed from nearly 3.5 million to more than 4.5 million, job openings surged from less than 2 million to more than 4 million, and the number of people quitting their jobs is staying relatively flat.

"When things are tough, people hold on to their jobs," Yandle said.

The spike in the number of job openings, according to Yandle, "which can reflect improved certainty about the future economy, offers the prospect of strong employment gains."

Despite the promising job outlook, Yandle does not expect gross domestic product (GDP) growth to steamroll in the fourth quarter of 2014.

"No steam, but better than lukewarm positive growth," he said.

Looking ahead to next year, Yandle said he's in general agreement that 2015 will generate 3 percent growth in the GDP.

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