ΓRO B THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2012

allows evidence against suspect in missing teen case, 2B

INCOME GROWTH SLOWS

New jobs, BMW expansion, Boeing plant help keep state's numbers ahead of most of region

By David Dykes
Staff Writer
ddykes@greenvilleonline.com

Personal income growth slowed in the third quarter, including in South Carolina, but the state fared better than most of its Southeastern neighbors and ranked 18th nationally in percent change, the government said Wednesday.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis said South Carolina's personal income grew by 0.7 percent from the second quarter, ahead of most of the 12 states in the Southeast region.

The state's second-quarter growth was 0.9 percent. The latest figures put South Carolina ahead of all Southeastern states except for Alabama (0.7 percent growth), Arkansas (1 percent), Georgia (0.7 percent) and Mississippi (0.8 percent).

South Carolina is benefiting from additional manufacturing jobs, which support income growth, from BMW's expansion in the Upstate and the ramp up of Boeing's operations along the coast, said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wells Fargo Securities.

Durable goods manufacturing accounted for 17 percent of the state's earnings growth, according to BEA figures.

"We have some things that are going right," Vitner said of South Carolina.

BEA officials said overall state personal income growth slowed to 0.5 percent in the third quarter from 0.7 percent in the second quarter.

State personal income statistics provide a framework for government and business officials to analyze current economic conditions in each state. For example:

» Federal agencies use the statistics as a basis for allocating funds and determining matching grants to states.

» State governments use the statistics to project tax revenues and the need for public services.

» Academic regional economists use the statistics for applied research.