JOBS FROM RECRUITMENT

Economists say numbers reflect national, global economic uncertainty

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COLUMBIA — The number of recruited jobs in South Carolina has fallen from 20,000 in 2011 to slightly more than 8,100 so far this year, although the actual number of jobs has increased slightly, figures show.

The number of recruited jobs is considered a prime metric of business recruitment in the state and represents the numbers of jobs announced by the South Carolina Department of Commerce as a result of the state's recruitment efforts.

The overall number of jobs in the state has increased by 1.7 percent from August this year compared to August last year, according to the federal government. Nationally, job growth for the same period was about the same, 1.65 percent.

According to the state Department of Commerce publication Economic Outlook, recruited jobs have fallen from 20,013 in 2011 to 14,137 last year to 8,153 so far this year. Capital investment has tracked the jobs report, according to Commerce, going from $5.12 billion in 2011 to $3.99 billion last year and $2.61 billion so far this year.

Most of the recruited jobs numbers are for business expansions, according to the Commerce Department, as opposed to newly locating companies.

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RECRUITED JOBS

- **20,013** in 2011
- **14,137** in 2012
- **8,153** so far this year

Source: SC Department of Commerce

SLOW

MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

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The drop in recruited jobs has come despite mega-jobs announcements in recent years including Boeing and Continental Tire, and the recruiting work of Gov. Nikki Haley, who has described herself as a jobs governor.

"Governor Haley's economic development record speaks for itself with over 38,000 new jobs announced, over $9 billion invested, and job announcements made in 45 out of 46 counties," said Doug Mayer, a Haley spokesman. "These kinds of numbers and success are the direct result of a statewide approach to economic development that includes rural communities, in-state company expansions, and the ability to attract new businesses from out-of-state and overseas. But this is just the beginning — the governor is committed to making our business environment the most competitive in the country, creating even more opportunities for every South Carolinian."

Sen. Brad Hutto, an Orangeburg Democrat, said the recruited jobs numbers run counter to Haley's message that things "are going swimmingly" on the jobs front.

Hutto said the declining number of recruited jobs, when combined with job losses in the state and businesses that were recruited but chose not to locate in South Carolina, "means we've got a problem with unemployment in South Carolina."

"The overall view of it is we're in the hole and we have not come out of it yet," he said. "We've got to do better."

Haley's office each week sends out notices of companies announcing new or expanded facilities with jobs in tow. And she has seen unemployment fall in her tenure, going