

Upstate job market 'favorable' but slow



Clemson University senior Nicholas Shaw of Greenville, right, talks with Bill Purkerson, left, and Alex Tenney of Fluor Corp. about an engineering job during Clemson's fall career fair at Littlejohn Coliseum Wednesday. The company is hiring. Purkerson, a senior human resources manager, told Shaw, who will receive his mechanical engineering degree in December. Read more about Clemson's jobs fair on Page 1B PAUL BROWN

Most employers expect to maintain staff for now

By Jenny Munro
Staff Writer
jmunro@greenvillenews.com

Employers in the Greenville-Mauldin-Easley area say they expect steady hiring in the fourth quarter, making the region's job market more favorable than most of the rest of the state.

However, "hiring activity is expected to slow down during the fourth quarter of 2011 compared to quarter three," said Crystal Padgett, spokeswoman for the Greenville office of Manpower.

A new Manpower Employment Outlook Survey also rated Columbia's job market as "favorable."

In the Greenville-Mauldin-Easley area, 15 percent of the employers surveyed plan to add workers and 9 percent ex-

TOP JOB PROSPECTS

Greenville-Mauldin-Easley MSA in the 4th Quarter



- Manufacturing, durable and non-durable goods
- Transportation & utilities
- Professional and business services
- Education & health services
- Government

Source: Manpower Group

pect to reduce staff. About 71 percent expect to maintain their current payroll, and 5 percent aren't certain of their hiring plans.

"It's going to take time a little bit more time for our employers to be comfortable hiring," said Dean Jones, administrator of Greenville County's Workforce Development Office.

"They are saying if we can maintain with our ex-

isting work force, that's what we will do. It's a plus if they maintain rather than lay off workers."

He said he expects the unemployment rate in Greenville County — 9.1 percent in July and the third lowest in the state — to remain about the same in the near future.

Employers in the Upstate are hiring, but they also say they have trouble finding candidates with the higher skills required



Jones

by many jobs.

But there has been some good news with several recent announcements of

jobs to come.

For example, ZF Laurens announced last week that it would expand its facility — even before construction is complete — and hire 300 employees in addition to the 900 already announced.

Hiring has begun at the facility, including 22 production workers who will travel to Germany for training, but the bulk of the hiring is expected to come in late 2012.

See JOBS, Page 4A