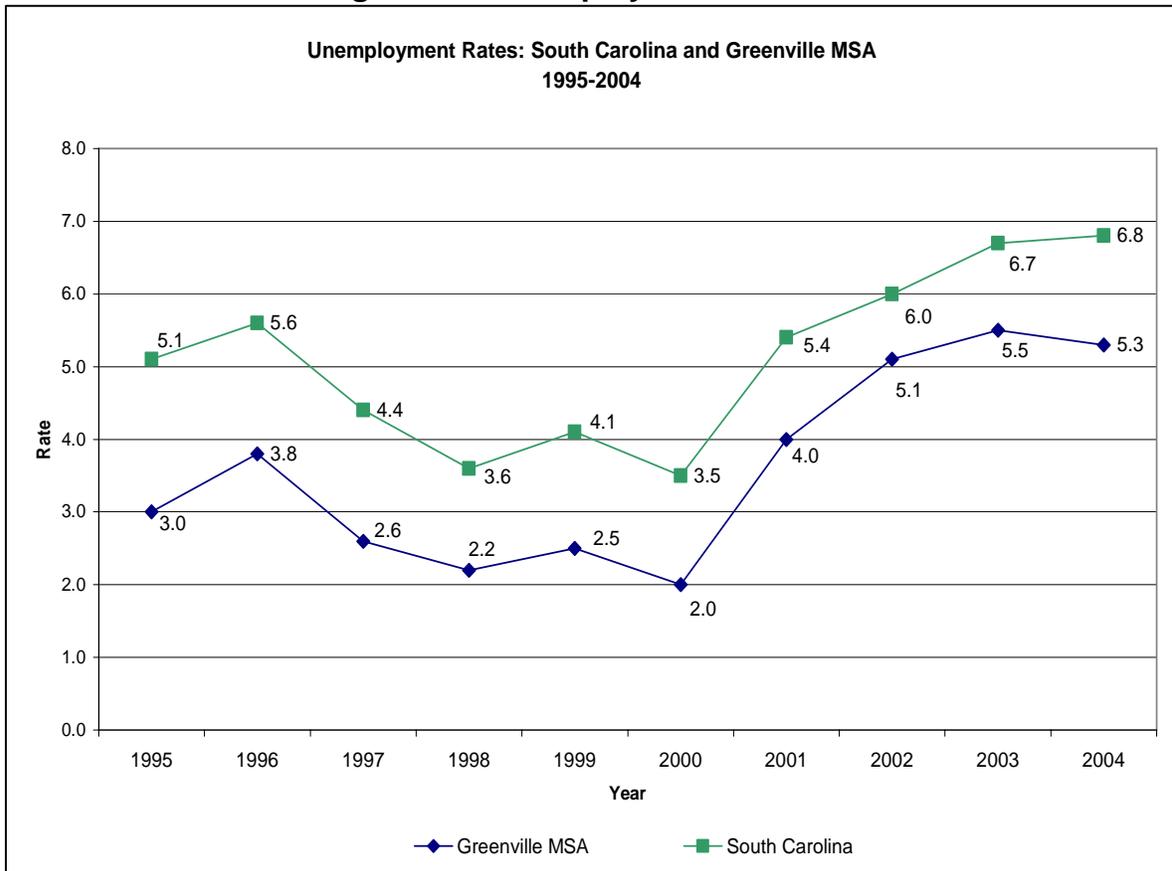


Employment

Unemployment Rates

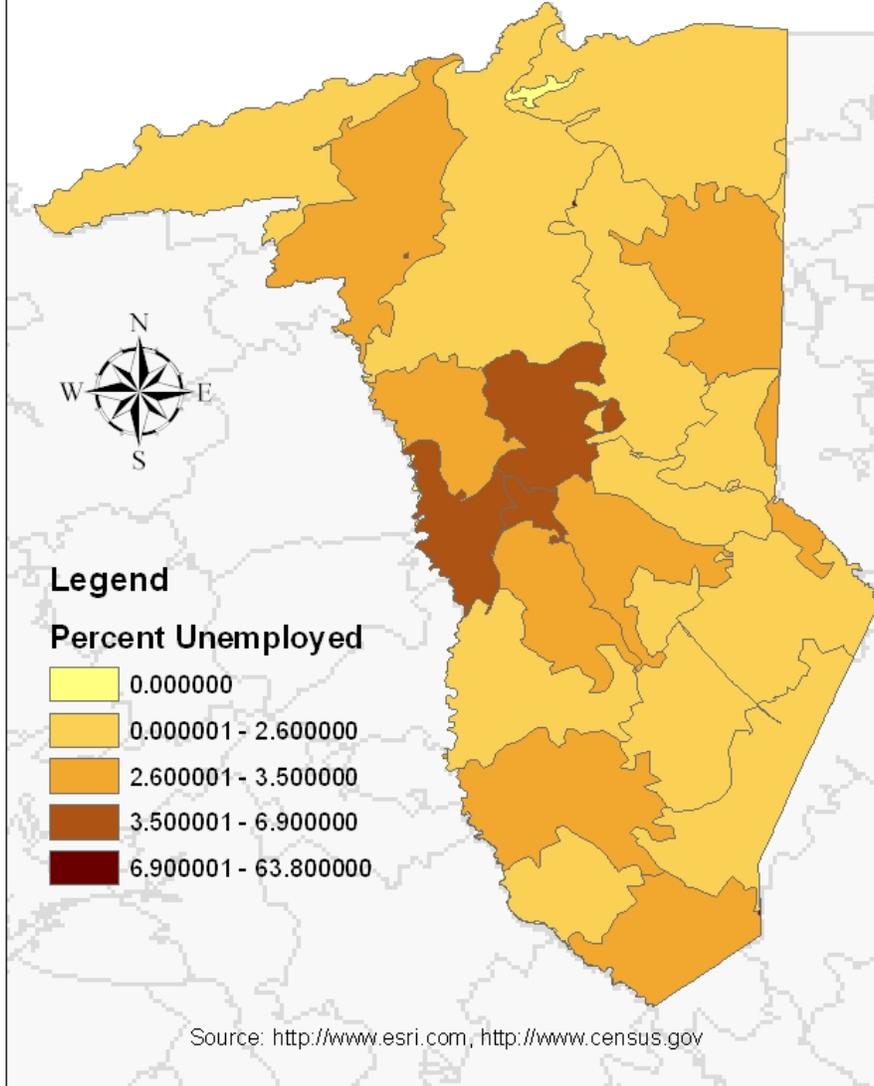
The Greenville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has a lower unemployment rate than the state of South Carolina. Figure 6 shows the percentage of unemployment for the Greenville MSA and South Carolina and gives a visual representation of the unemployment trends over the past nine years. In comparison to the state, the Greenville MSA saw a slight decrease in unemployment from 2003-2004.

Figure 19: Unemployment Trends



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University, 2005

Figure 20.
Greenville County
Percent of Residents Unemployed,
by Zip Code



Top Employers

According to the South Carolina Employment Security Commission (<http://www.sces.org/lmi/data/Top/index.htm>), the top 20 employers in Greenville County in 2003 were:

- The School District of Greenville
- Greenville Hospital System
- Michelin Tire Corporation
- Bi-Lo Inc.
- Wal-Mart Associates Inc.
- SFH Inc.
- GE Gas Turbine Greenville LLC
- Greenville County Council
- BP Staff Inc.
- American Services Inc.
- Cryovac Inc.
- Bob Jones University
- Lockheed Aeromod Center Inc.
- Spherion Atlantic Workforce LLC
- Greenville Technical College
- The Gap Incorporated
- US Postal Service
- Pindrum Staffing Service Inc.
- Kemet Electronics Corporation
- Swift Transportation Company Inc.

Greenville Housing Authority

The Greenville Housing Authority (GHA) provides the most affordable housing to the most disadvantaged, low-income adults and families of the city and county of Greenville. In fact, the GHA manages and operates a total of 3,192 public housing and Section 8 units. 1,244 are low-rent units, and 1,948 are Section 8 units. The dual jurisdiction agency continues to work and to enhance the quality of life of its residents. Initiatives like the Resident Advisory Board and the Family Self-Sufficiency Program empower residents by giving them a voice in the community and providing them with the means to gain homeownership status.

Through the support and nurturing of the Resident Advisory Board, residents are part of the planning and implementation process. Their ideas in discussions have helped to shape resident/management-housing policies and to identify and address public housing needs and concerns.

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program is a collaboration of local efforts to assist individuals in working toward home ownership and by offering Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Families have an opportunity to buy their own homes and to obtain employment skills to better compete in the labor market. The program builds on the participants' self-esteem and sense of achievement.

The Greenville Housing Authority's most noteworthy accomplishment is its HOPE VI Award for Woodland and Pearce Homes. This project is a demonstration of broad-based partnerships among the housing authority, local officials, public and private sectors, and other stakeholders. The multi-million dollar project will replace the barrack style homes with 100 owner-occupied, single-family homes as well as 45 townhomes and 34 garden-style apartments. The transformation will encourage working families to move to its public and new market housing, while reducing poverty concentrations. The authority later recently applied for additional HOPE VI funding in order to execute a similar development at Jesse Jackson Townhomes and was approved for the grant.