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**For Immediate Release**  
**October 20, 2011**  
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## **BLS Releases 2010 State, National Injury/Illness Rates**

South Carolina's on-the-job injury/illness rate for private industry was 3.1 injuries/illness per 100 workers in 2010, down slightly from 2009's rate of 3.2.

The 2010 rate mirrors the 2008 private industry rate of 3.1, which was the lowest rate in the history of the state Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) program since data was first recorded in the 1970s. The data comes from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

The U.S. rate for 2010 was 3.5.

The state's overall 2010 injury/illness rate, which includes private industry and public sector, was 3.5 injuries/illnesses per 100 workers, the same as in 2009. In 2008, the state's overall injury/illness rate was 3.4.

The U.S. overall rate for 2010 was 3.8.

Sub-sector industries within private industry with the highest non-fatal occupational injury and illness incidence rates for total cases in the state were:

- nursing and residential care facilities, 7.7
- furniture and related product manufacturing, 7.3
- couriers and messengers, 7.2;
- food manufacturing, 6.9
- hospitals, 6.7
- general merchandise stores, 6.7

South Carolina state and local government's rate increased to 5.2 percent, up from 4.9 in 2009 and 4.8 in 2008.

Within state and local government, state government's injury/illness rate decreased slightly from 3.4 in 2009 to 3.3 in 2010. Local government's rate increased from 5.7 in 2009 to 6.1 in 2010.

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses is a federal/state program in which employer reports were collected from over 3,100 South Carolina establishments in 2010 and processed by the state Department of LLR, cooperating with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The

survey measures nonfatal injuries and illnesses only. The survey excludes the self-employed; farms with fewer than 11 employees; private households; and federal government agencies.

The annual survey provides estimates of the number and frequency (incidence rates) of workplace injuries and illnesses based on logs kept by employers during the year. These records reflect not only the year's injury and illness experience, but also the employer's understanding of which cases are work related under recordkeeping rules promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor. The number of injuries and illnesses reported in any year can be influenced by the level of economic activity, working conditions and work practices, worker experience and training, and the number of hours worked.

<b>Private Sector Injury/illness Rate</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>United States</b>
2010	3.1	3.5
2009	3.2	3.6
2008	3.1	3.9
2007	3.6	4.2
2006	3.8	4.4
2005	3.6	4.6
2004	4.1	4.8
2003	4.4	5.0
2002	4.5	5.3
2001	4.5	5.7
2000	5.5	6.1
1999	5.7	6.3
1998	5.7	6.7
1997	5.9	7.1
1996	5.9	7.4