

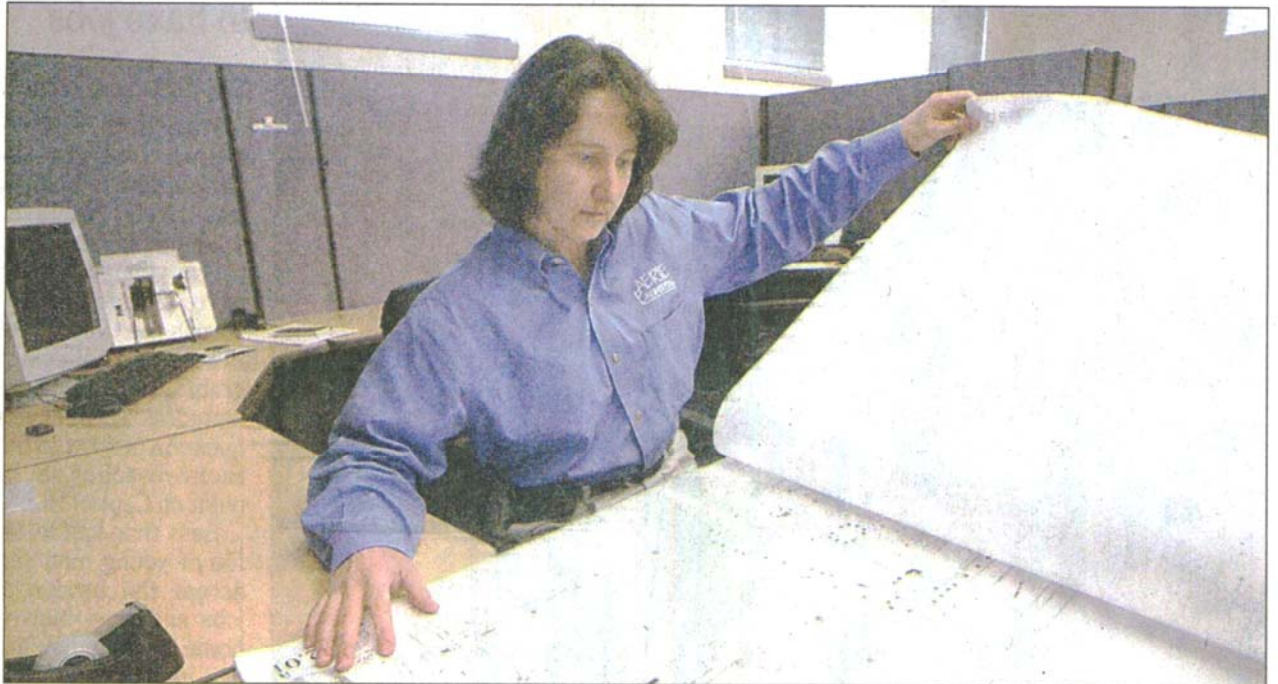
The Greenville News



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2006 ■ UPSTATE EDITION

greenvilleonline.com

Personal incomes make small gains



KEN OSBURN / Staff

Staying put: Lori Morton worked in the Upstate before starting her own firm, Aerie Engineering, in downtown Greenville. The state hopes to retain more young, college-educated workers by attracting well-paying jobs.

Wealth of jobs seen as key to retaining young workers

By Jenny Munro
BUSINESS WRITER
jmunro@greenvillenews.com

South Carolina's per capita personal income rose by 4.3 percent last year, but the state still lags both its neighbors and the rest of the country, and economists say it

faces many challenges as it tries to catch up.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reported Tuesday that South Carolina is inching ahead in its effort to increase personal income per person. But it remains among the 10 states with lowest per cap-

ita personal income — at 82 percent of the national average.

The state had per capita personal income of \$28,352 per resident in 2005, 43rd among the states, according to the government. That was up from the \$27,185 report-

ed in 2004, which ranked the state No. 44.

"We have improved slightly in rank, but our percent of the U.S. average is still 82 percent," said James Fields, executive director of the Pal-

See **INCOME** on page 5A

SOUTH CAROLINA MOVES UP ONE NOTCH IN PER CAPITA INCOME IN 2005

Per capita personal income is a measure of how well individuals are faring economically. Movement up and down generally comes slowly unless a traumatic event, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, hit a state. That happened with Louisiana in 2005, pushing it to the very bottom of the nation.

HIGHEST PER CAPITA INCOME					South Carolina	LOWEST PER CAPITA INCOME					
Conn.	Mass.	N.J.	Md.	N.Y.	La.	Miss.	Ark.	W.Va.	N.M.		
2004 ^f (1)	2004 ^f (2)	2004 ^f (3)	2004 ^f (4)	2004 ^f (5)	2004 ^f (44)	2004 ^f (50)	2004 ^f (48)	2004 ^f (49)	2004 ^f (47)		
\$45,318	\$42,176	\$41,626	\$39,631	\$38,264	\$27,185	\$24,518	\$25,814	\$25,792	\$26,184		
2005 ^p (1)	2005 (2)	2005 ^p (3)	2005 ^p (4)	2005 ^p (5)	2005 ^p (43)	2005 (49)	2005 ^p (48)	2005 ^p (47)	2005 ^p (46)		
\$47,819	\$44,289	\$43,771	\$41,760	\$40,507	\$28,352	\$25,318	\$26,874	\$27,215	\$27,644		
Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change		
5.5%	5.0%	5.2%	5.4%	5.9%	4.3%	3.3%	4.1%	5.5%	5.6%		

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

^fRevised ^pPreliminary

SUZIE RIDDLE / Staff