

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



Released: September 18, 2009

South Carolina's Unemployment Rate Drops in August

South Carolina's unemployment rate decreased to 11.5% in August, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. The July rate was revised downward from 11.8% to 11.7%. The state's labor force dropped in August to 2,175,078, while the number of unemployed decreased 6,083 to 249,849. The national unemployment rate was 9.7% in August, up from 9.4% in July.

The state's job count increased by 14,300 in August with most of the increase occurring in Local Government Educational Services (+16,800), as state and local schools prepared for the new school year. Other industries reporting gains were Professional and Business Services (+4,000); Education and Health Services (+1,400); and Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (+700). Partially offsetting the gains were losses in Leisure and Hospitality (-2,700), and Construction (-2,600). South Carolina's construction employment has now dropped below 100,000 jobs for the first time since February of 1997. For the first time since the recession began in December of 2007, job level changes in the state's manufacturing industry were flat; however, manufacturing has lost in excess of 28,000 jobs over the past 12 months. The state's overall job count was nearly 78,900 below the year-ago level.

With its drop in August, the unemployment rate has declined in the state now for the second month in a row. The state's labor force levels continue to decline as well. "Nearly all industries in South Carolina have been impacted by this recession. While the continued decline in the state's unemployment rate is welcome news, once the recession is over, South Carolina will have a significant challenge ahead in regaining the jobs lost," said Roosevelt T. Halley, Executive Director of the Commission.



S. C. Employment Security Commission Roosevelt T. Halley, Executive Director

P. O. Box 995, Columbia, South Carolina 29202 (803) 737-2617



WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

August-09

Industry	August 2009	July 2009	August 2008	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,849,600	1,835,300	1,928,500	14,300	-78,900
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,100	4,200	0	-100
Construction	97,900	100,500	115,900	-2,600	-18,000
Manufacturing	213,400	213,400	241,700	0	-28,300
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	355,900	356,400	373,400	-500	-17,500
Information	29,900	30,000	29,300	-100	600
Financial Activities	103,800	103,800	107,600	0	-3,800
Professional and Business Services	220,100	216,100	220,200	4,000	-100
Educational and Health Services	207,600	206,200	207,200	1,400	400
Leisure and Hospitality	217,300	220,000	226,600	-2,700	-9,300
Government	327,800	311,400	330,800	16,400	-3,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		August 2009	July 2009	Change
1	Allendale	21.8	22.4	-0.6
2	Chester	21.3	21.3	0.0
3	Marion	20.9	21.2	-0.3
4	Union	20.8	20.9	-0.1
5	Marlboro	20.4	21.6	-1.2
6	Barnwell	18.6	18.9	-0.3
7	Lancaster	18.2	18.9	-0.7
8	Bamberg	17.5	18.3	-0.8
9	Dillon	17.2	17.8	-0.6
10	Chesterfield	17.1	18.2	-1.1
11	Orangeburg	17.0	17.2	-0.2
12	Cherokee	16.3	16.9	-0.6
13	McCormick	16.1	15.8	0.3
14	Clarendon	15.8	16.0	-0.2
15	Hampton	15.7	16.4	-0.7
16	Lee	15.6	15.5	0.1
17	Williamsburg	15.5	16.0	-0.5
18	Abbeville	15.0	15.1	-0.1
19	Oconee	14.3	15.0	-0.7
20	Colleton	14.1	14.3	-0.2
21	Greenwood	13.8	13.7	0.1
22	York	13.6	15.0	-1.4
23	Sumter	13.4	13.4	0.0
24	Darlington	13.3	13.6	-0.3
25	Fairfield	13.2	13.6	-0.4
26	Anderson	12.5	12.4	0.1
27	Spartanburg	12.4	12.5	-0.1
28	Laurens	12.3	12.4	-0.1
29	Calhoun	12.1	12.1	0.0
	Georgetown	12.1	12.1	0.0
31	Newberry	11.9	12.2	-0.3
32	Florence	11.5	11.6	-0.1
33	Edgefield	10.7	10.5	0.2
34	Berkeley	10.6	10.9	-0.3
	Kershaw	10.6	10.5	0.1
	Pickens	10.6	10.7	-0.1
37	Horry	10.5	10.3	0.2
38	Jasper	10.4	11.1	-0.7
39	Dorchester	10.2	10.1	0.1
40	Greenville	10.1	10.0	0.1
41	Richland	9.7	9.4	0.3
42	Saluda	9.5	9.0	0.5
43	Aiken	9.4	10.0	-0.6
44	Charleston	9.1	9.1	0.0
45	Beaufort	8.8	8.9	-0.1
46	Lexington	8.2	8.1	0.1

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

August-09

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	August 2009	July 2009	August 2008	August 2009	July 2009	August 2008	August 2009	July 2009	August 2008
ABBEVILLE	11,563	11,568	11,595	1,739	1,751	1,084	15.0	15.1	9.3
AIKEN	76,338	77,673	75,815	7,209	7,743	5,170	9.4	10.0	6.8
ALLENDALE	3,309	3,324	3,406	722	745	633	21.8	22.4	18.6
ANDERSON MSA	87,785	88,553	86,214	10,948	10,946	6,696	12.5	12.4	7.8
BAMBERG	6,210	6,245	6,394	1,089	1,145	875	17.5	18.3	13.7
BARNWELL	9,153	9,171	9,059	1,705	1,729	1,100	18.6	18.9	12.1
BEAUFORT	62,713	62,583	65,573	5,503	5,599	3,833	8.8	8.9	5.8
BERKELEY	81,743	83,399	80,656	8,638	9,059	5,794	10.6	10.9	7.2
CALHOUN	7,257	7,371	7,116	876	894	649	12.1	12.1	9.1
CHARLESTON	180,564	183,558	178,964	16,431	16,652	10,887	9.1	9.1	6.1
CHEROKEE	25,706	25,773	25,522	4,199	4,359	2,442	16.3	16.9	9.6
CHESTER	15,801	15,706	15,312	3,367	3,342	1,967	21.3	21.3	12.8
CHESTERFIELD	19,093	19,211	18,822	3,264	3,489	1,896	17.1	18.2	10.1
CLARENDON	12,491	12,516	12,608	1,972	1,999	1,373	15.8	16.0	10.9
COLLETON	16,785	16,807	17,085	2,374	2,405	1,672	14.1	14.3	9.8
DARLINGTON	33,092	32,640	31,807	4,407	4,427	3,013	13.3	13.6	9.5
DILLON	13,096	13,093	13,064	2,257	2,325	1,498	17.2	17.8	11.5
DORCHESTER	65,458	66,479	64,259	6,697	6,725	4,086	10.2	10.1	6.4
EDGEFIELD	11,276	11,379	11,141	1,205	1,191	849	10.7	10.5	7.6
FAIRFIELD	11,575	11,794	11,641	1,533	1,601	1,463	13.2	13.6	12.6
FLORENCE	66,245	65,206	63,995	7,620	7,545	5,146	11.5	11.6	8.0
GEORGETOWN	30,334	30,465	31,111	3,656	3,692	2,355	12.1	12.1	7.6
GREENVILLE	229,388	232,134	225,686	23,107	23,123	14,289	10.1	10.0	6.3
GREENWOOD	30,004	29,855	30,641	4,131	4,078	2,661	13.8	13.7	8.7
HAMPTON	7,686	7,711	7,801	1,210	1,262	812	15.7	16.4	10.4
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	134,262	138,821	138,340	14,039	14,234	9,198	10.5	10.3	6.6
JASPER	10,033	10,073	10,379	1,045	1,120	679	10.4	11.1	6.5
KERSHAW	30,975	31,385	30,249	3,292	3,287	2,193	10.6	10.5	7.2
LANCASTER	29,519	29,633	29,746	5,368	5,613	3,803	18.2	18.9	12.8
LAURENS	34,591	35,096	33,795	4,241	4,344	2,692	12.3	12.4	8.0
LEE	8,339	8,354	8,208	1,302	1,296	851	15.6	15.5	10.4
LEXINGTON	135,653	137,475	133,501	11,149	11,106	7,322	8.2	8.1	5.5
MARION	13,316	13,356	13,199	2,782	2,826	1,973	20.9	21.2	14.9
MARLBORO	11,919	12,012	11,692	2,435	2,591	1,561	20.4	21.6	13.4
McCORMICK	3,381	3,365	3,474	543	531	424	16.1	15.8	12.2
NEWBERRY	18,369	18,423	18,723	2,187	2,239	1,546	11.9	12.2	8.3
OCONEE	30,882	31,163	30,673	4,416	4,684	2,473	14.3	15.0	8.1
ORANGEBURG	40,601	40,600	41,391	6,922	6,978	5,195	17.0	17.2	12.6
PICKENS	60,502	61,364	59,730	6,418	6,564	4,304	10.6	10.7	7.2
RICHLAND	185,842	188,110	183,159	17,950	17,703	13,008	9.7	9.4	7.1
SALUDA	9,415	9,506	9,244	895	858	609	9.5	9.0	6.6
SPARTANBURG MSA	141,367	141,660	138,708	17,515	17,761	10,983	12.4	12.5	7.9
SUMTER MSA	43,115	43,972	43,321	5,771	5,905	4,008	13.4	13.4	9.3
UNION	12,406	12,384	11,901	2,586	2,590	1,451	20.8	20.9	12.2
WILLIAMSBURG	15,573	15,637	15,807	2,418	2,503	1,805	15.5	16.0	11.4
YORK	108,242	109,158	107,593	14,754	16,358	8,340	13.6	15.0	7.8
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	327,764	333,435	323,879	31,766	32,436	20,767	9.7	9.7	6.4
COLA MSA	380,718	385,639	374,910	35,695	35,448	25,245	9.4	9.2	6.7
FLORENCE MSA	99,337	97,846	95,802	12,027	11,972	8,159	12.1	12.2	8.5
GRNV MSA	324,482	328,594	319,212	33,766	34,031	21,286	10.4	10.4	6.7
South Carolina*	2,175.1	2,183.0	2,161.9	249.8	255.9	157.3	11.5	11.7	7.3

* Seasonally Adjusted