

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



Released: March 27, 2009

South Carolina's Unemployment Reaches 11.0% In February

South Carolina's unemployment rate continued its upward climb in February reaching 11.0%, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. This is seven-tenths of a point higher than the revised January rate of 10.3%, and the highest jobless rate in the state since March 1983, when the rate was 11.1%. The state's labor force grew slightly (+5,597) to 2,191,841; however, the number of unemployed jumped over 15,100 to 241,000. The national unemployment rate rose from 7.6% in January to 8.1% in February.

The rate of job loss in the state slowed somewhat from the previous few months with a decline of 1,700 jobs in February. Some industries actually reported notable job gains over the month. Manufacturing and Construction continued to reduce payrolls with decreases of 5,400 and 2,100, respectively. Financial Activities cut 2,300 positions over the month. Among those adding jobs in February were Professional and Business Services (+2,300), Other Services (+1,600), Leisure and Hospitality (+1,500), Retail Trade (+700), Education and Health Services (+600). Government added 3,700 positions and state colleges and universities re-staffed after the holidays. The overall job count in the state fell to 88,700 below the year-ago level.



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

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
February-09

Industry	February 2009	January 2009	February 2008	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,840,700	1,842,400	1,929,400	-1,700	-88,700
Natural Resources and Mining	4,200	4,200	4,500	0	-300
Construction	105,300	107,400	115,700	-2,100	-10,400
Manufacturing	223,000	228,400	246,500	-5,400	-23,500
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	354,400	356,000	373,400	-1,600	-19,000
Information	29,400	29,400	28,200	0	1,200
Financial Activities	103,300	105,600	106,000	-2,300	-2,700
Professional and Business Services	206,100	203,800	222,300	2,300	-16,200
Educational and Health Services	206,200	205,600	206,200	600	0
Leisure and Hospitality	192,500	191,000	207,200	1,500	-14,700
Government	345,300	341,600	349,000	3,700	-3,700

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		February 2009	January 2009	Change
1	Allendale	23.4	23.2	0.2
2	Marion	21.9	22.1	-0.2
3	Chester	20.8	19.5	1.3
4	Marlboro	19.7	19.5	0.2
5	Union	19.6	16.9	2.7
6	McCormick	19.2	17.0	2.2
7	Lancaster	18.4	17.5	0.9
8	Chesterfield	17.6	16.7	0.9
9	Barnwell	17.3	16.5	0.8
10	Cherokee	17.0	15.5	1.5
11	Bamberg	16.9	16.5	0.4
12	Dillon	16.8	16.2	0.6
13	Hampton	16.2	15.4	0.8
14	Clarendon	16.1	15.6	0.5
	Williamsburg	16.1	15.6	0.5
16	Orangeburg	15.6	15.4	0.2
17	Abbeville	15.2	13.1	2.1
18	Lee	15.0	14.4	0.6
19	Colleton	14.3	13.3	1.0
	Horry	14.3	14.3	0.0
	York	14.3	12.8	1.5
22	Oconee	13.8	13.3	0.5
23	Sumter	13.7	12.8	0.9
24	Greenwood	13.5	12.8	0.7
25	Darlington	13.3	12.9	0.4
26	Fairfield	13.2	13.2	0.0
27	Georgetown	13.1	12.9	0.2
28	Newberry	12.9	10.5	2.4
29	Anderson	12.7	11.4	1.3
30	Spartanburg	11.5	10.7	0.8
31	Calhoun	11.4	11.3	0.1
32	Laurens	11.3	10.9	0.4
33	Edgefield	11.1	9.1	2.0
	Florence	11.1	10.5	0.6
35	Kershaw	10.9	10.3	0.6
36	Jasper	10.5	10.1	0.4
37	Berkeley	10.3	9.5	0.8
38	Dorchester	9.8	9.2	0.6
	Pickens	9.8	9.7	0.1
40	Aiken	9.5	8.4	1.1
	Greenville	9.5	8.8	0.7
42	Saluda	9.5	8.6	0.9
43	Beaufort	8.6	8.3	0.3
	Richland	8.6	8.4	0.2
45	Charleston	8.3	7.9	0.4
46	Lexington	7.9	7.4	0.5

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

February-09

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	February 2009	January 2009	February 2008	February 2009	January 2009	February 2008	February 2009	January 2009	February 2008
ABBEVILLE	11,707	11,461	11,271	1,775	1,506	817	15.2	13.1	7.2
AIKEN	76,148	75,885	73,481	7,256	6,382	3,697	9.5	8.4	5.0
ALLENDALE	3,395	3,406	3,261	793	789	478	23.4	23.2	14.7
ANDERSON MSA	87,322	85,914	84,677	11,083	9,790	5,067	12.7	11.4	6.0
BAMBERG	6,238	6,230	6,239	1,053	1,027	555	16.9	16.5	8.9
BARNWELL	9,113	9,081	8,684	1,573	1,500	789	17.3	16.5	9.1
BEAUFORT	63,707	63,636	61,365	5,509	5,309	2,768	8.6	8.3	4.5
BERKELEY	80,490	80,304	77,355	8,268	7,656	3,984	10.3	9.5	5.2
CALHOUN	7,152	7,143	6,798	815	807	362	11.4	11.3	5.3
CHARLESTON	176,739	177,034	172,164	14,588	13,927	7,434	8.3	7.9	4.3
CHEROKEE	26,379	26,078	25,334	4,473	4,032	1,922	17.0	15.5	7.6
CHESTER	15,903	15,805	15,168	3,302	3,089	1,648	20.8	19.5	10.9
CHESTERFIELD	19,378	19,316	18,231	3,402	3,231	1,330	17.6	16.7	7.3
CLARENDON	12,585	12,565	12,377	2,030	1,964	1,042	16.1	15.6	8.4
COLLETON	16,944	16,826	16,166	2,416	2,237	1,056	14.3	13.3	6.5
DARLINGTON	32,476	32,501	30,947	4,335	4,196	2,177	13.3	12.9	7.0
DILLON	13,136	13,094	12,620	2,201	2,121	1,171	16.8	16.2	9.3
DORCHESTER	64,371	64,332	61,835	6,320	5,938	2,860	9.8	9.2	4.6
EDGEFIELD	11,289	11,137	10,809	1,252	1,011	642	11.1	9.1	5.9
FAIRFIELD	11,489	11,482	10,992	1,516	1,510	863	13.2	13.2	7.9
FLORENCE	64,724	64,657	62,535	7,210	6,808	3,735	11.1	10.5	6.0
GEORGETOWN	30,451	30,437	29,091	3,984	3,920	2,054	13.1	12.9	7.1
GREENVILLE	227,167	226,513	220,835	21,607	19,996	10,080	9.5	8.8	4.6
GREENWOOD	30,482	30,307	30,085	4,128	3,868	1,977	13.5	12.8	6.6
HAMPTON	7,828	7,790	7,564	1,268	1,198	559	16.2	15.4	7.4
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	127,105	126,146	124,825	18,218	18,004	8,328	14.3	14.3	6.7
JASPER	10,220	10,188	9,692	1,076	1,024	486	10.5	10.1	5.0
KERSHAW	30,848	30,662	29,653	3,356	3,173	1,731	10.9	10.3	5.8
LANCASTER	30,028	29,923	29,375	5,530	5,228	3,096	18.4	17.5	10.5
LAURENS	34,101	34,091	33,332	3,857	3,706	2,323	11.3	10.9	7.0
LEE	8,241	8,217	8,007	1,240	1,185	678	15.0	14.4	8.5
LEXINGTON	134,288	133,572	130,895	10,644	9,941	5,318	7.9	7.4	4.1
MARION	13,380	13,480	12,586	2,928	2,984	1,536	21.9	22.1	12.2
MARLBORO	12,006	12,093	11,490	2,360	2,359	1,246	19.7	19.5	10.8
McCORMICK	3,565	3,486	3,466	686	594	364	19.2	17.0	10.5
NEWBERRY	18,707	18,349	18,299	2,411	1,929	1,028	12.9	10.5	5.6
OCONEE	31,015	30,940	30,056	4,271	4,105	1,889	13.8	13.3	6.3
ORANGEBURG	40,378	40,444	40,779	6,279	6,233	3,087	15.6	15.4	7.6
PICKENS	59,773	59,942	57,921	5,878	5,796	2,664	9.8	9.7	4.6
RICHLAND	182,504	182,097	178,205	15,771	15,382	8,866	8.6	8.4	5.0
SALUDA	9,351	9,254	9,012	890	793	418	9.5	8.6	4.6
SPARTANBURG MSA	140,520	141,158	134,872	16,169	15,114	7,363	11.5	10.7	5.5
SUMTER MSA	42,936	42,625	43,030	5,870	5,447	3,208	13.7	12.8	7.5
UNION	12,379	12,071	11,610	2,429	2,043	1,098	19.6	16.9	9.5
WILLIAMSBURG	15,642	15,625	15,200	2,522	2,445	1,408	16.1	15.6	9.3
YORK	110,077	109,793	105,005	15,753	14,049	6,224	14.3	12.8	5.9
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	321,600	321,669	311,355	29,176	27,521	14,279	9.1	8.6	4.6
COLA MSA	375,631	374,212	365,555	32,991	31,607	17,558	8.8	8.4	4.8
FLORENCE MSA	97,200	97,158	93,482	11,545	11,004	5,912	11.9	11.3	6.3
GRNV MSA	321,041	320,546	312,089	31,342	29,498	15,068	9.8	9.2	4.8
South Carolina*	2,191.8	2,186.2	2,126.9	241.0	225.9	120.6	11.0	10.3	5.7

* Seasonally Adjusted