

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



Released: March 11, 2009

South Carolina's Unemployment Rate Soars to 10.4%

South Carolina's unemployment rate soared to 10.4% in January, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. The annual benchmarking/revision process conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) revised December's rate downward from 9.5% to 8.8%. January's figure was the highest since April 1983 when the rate reached 10.7%. The state's labor force was estimated at 2,188,441 in January while the number of unemployed climbed to record high of 227,986. The national jobless rate rose to 7.6% in January from a 7.2% rate in December.

The non-farm job count in the state plummeted 42,800 in January with practically all industry divisions experiencing substantial losses. Retail Trade cut 11,700 positions in January. This was followed by losses in Professional and Business Services (-6,000), Manufacturing (-5,900), Leisure and Hospitality (-5,600), and Construction (-1,900). Public sector jobs were down 8,500 over the month. The overall job count for January was 76,100 below the year-ago level.



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

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
January-09

Industry	January 2009	December 2008	January 2008	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,842,800	1,885,600	1,918,900	-42,800	-76,100
Natural Resources and Mining	4,200	4,200	4,500	0	-300
Construction	106,600	108,500	116,300	-1,900	-9,700
Manufacturing	227,700	233,600	247,500	-5,900	-19,800
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	355,800	368,500	374,500	-12,700	-18,700
Information	29,500	29,400	28,100	100	1,400
Financial Activities	105,100	105,300	105,200	-200	-100
Professional and Business Services	204,200	210,200	219,700	-6,000	-15,500
Educational and Health Services	207,800	209,000	204,100	-1,200	3,700
Leisure and Hospitality	191,000	196,600	203,100	-5,600	-12,100
Government	341,700	350,200	345,700	-8,500	-4,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		January 2009	December 2008	Change
1	Allendale	23.4	21.4	2.0
2	Marion	22.4	18.8	3.6
3	Chester	19.6	17.5	2.1
4	Lancaster	17.5	14.5	3.0
	Marlboro	17.5	17.1	0.4
6	McCormick	17.3	14.2	3.1
7	Union	17.1	14.4	2.7
8	Barnwell	16.7	15.4	1.3
	Chesterfield	16.7	12.9	3.8
10	Bamberg	16.5	15.3	1.2
11	Dillon	16.4	14.3	2.1
12	Clarendon	15.8	12.6	3.2
	Williamsburg	15.8	14.0	1.8
14	Cherokee	15.6	13.0	2.6
	Orangeburg	15.6	13.6	2.0
16	Hampton	15.5	13.0	2.5
17	Lee	14.6	11.9	2.7
18	Horry	14.4	11.9	2.5
19	Colleton	13.5	11.6	1.9
20	Fairfield	13.3	14.3	-1.0
	Oconee	13.3	10.6	2.7
22	Abbeville	13.2	11.1	2.1
23	Darlington	13.1	12.0	1.1
24	Georgetown	13.0	11.3	1.7
25	Greenwood	12.9	11.2	1.7
	Sumter	12.9	10.7	2.2
27	York	12.8	9.9	2.9
28	Anderson	11.5	9.6	1.9
	Calhoun	11.5	10.2	1.3
30	Laurens	11.0	9.5	1.5
31	Spartanburg	10.8	9.2	1.6
32	Florence	10.7	9.2	1.5
33	Newberry	10.6	9.3	1.3
34	Kershaw	10.5	8.4	2.1
35	Jasper	10.1	8.3	1.8
36	Pickens	9.8	8.0	1.8
37	Berkeley	9.6	8.1	1.5
38	Dorchester	9.3	7.8	1.5
39	Edgefield	9.1	8.3	0.8
40	Greenville	8.9	7.5	1.4
41	Saluda	8.7	7.6	1.1
42	Aiken	8.5	7.6	0.9
	Richland	8.5	7.6	0.9
44	Beaufort	8.4	6.9	1.5
45	Charleston	7.9	6.9	1.0
46	Lexington	7.5	6.4	1.1

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

January-09

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	January 2009	December 2008	January 2008	January 2009	December 2008	January 2008	January 2009	December 2008	January 2008
ABBEVILLE	11,498	11,453	11,081	1,520	1,266	811	13.2	11.1	7.3
AIKEN	76,130	75,770	74,132	6,472	5,728	4,047	8.5	7.6	5.5
ALLENDALE	3,432	3,437	3,304	804	734	494	23.4	21.4	15.0
ANDERSON MSA	86,018	85,664	84,923	9,909	8,209	4,813	11.5	9.6	5.7
BAMBERG	6,251	6,314	6,264	1,032	966	606	16.5	15.3	9.7
BARNWELL	9,125	9,157	8,801	1,523	1,409	867	16.7	15.4	9.9
BEAUFORT	63,842	64,024	61,598	5,341	4,447	2,979	8.4	6.9	4.8
BERKELEY	80,278	79,597	77,435	7,732	6,425	3,841	9.6	8.1	5.0
CALHOUN	7,157	7,144	6,861	820	731	412	11.5	10.2	6.0
CHARLESTON	176,926	176,522	172,938	14,048	12,239	7,706	7.9	6.9	4.5
CHEROKEE	26,186	25,838	25,534	4,086	3,351	1,837	15.6	13.0	7.2
CHESTER	15,852	15,766	15,380	3,105	2,760	1,809	19.6	17.5	11.8
CHESTERFIELD	19,352	18,907	18,354	3,238	2,437	1,422	16.7	12.9	7.7
CLARENDON	12,618	12,458	12,454	1,990	1,565	1,133	15.8	12.6	9.1
COLLETON	16,897	16,898	16,216	2,274	1,960	1,098	13.5	11.6	6.8
DARLINGTON	32,341	32,350	31,016	4,221	3,873	2,156	13.1	12.0	7.0
DILLON	13,119	13,138	12,724	2,146	1,880	1,227	16.4	14.3	9.6
DORCHESTER	64,299	63,787	61,975	5,987	4,972	2,820	9.3	7.8	4.6
EDGEFIELD	11,168	11,126	10,917	1,020	922	707	9.1	8.3	6.5
FAIRFIELD	11,503	11,781	10,989	1,529	1,688	839	13.3	14.3	7.6
FLORENCE	64,372	64,086	62,944	6,900	5,886	3,959	10.7	9.2	6.3
GEORGETOWN	30,516	30,647	29,047	3,966	3,460	2,236	13.0	11.3	7.7
GREENVILLE	226,550	226,319	221,299	20,255	17,058	10,315	8.9	7.5	4.7
GREENWOOD	30,443	30,455	30,089	3,930	3,399	2,051	12.9	11.2	6.8
HAMPTON	7,826	7,797	7,633	1,214	1,014	609	15.5	13.0	8.0
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	125,570	125,630	124,547	18,106	14,896	9,160	14.4	11.9	7.4
JASPER	10,224	10,205	9,689	1,033	845	479	10.1	8.3	4.9
KERSHAW	30,715	30,358	29,568	3,220	2,537	1,588	10.5	8.4	5.4
LANCASTER	30,007	29,525	29,636	5,255	4,282	3,252	17.5	14.5	11.0
LAURENS	34,110	34,011	33,574	3,758	3,222	2,532	11.0	9.5	7.5
LEE	8,242	8,193	8,025	1,204	976	694	14.6	11.9	8.6
LEXINGTON	133,738	133,678	131,305	10,082	8,552	5,467	7.5	6.4	4.2
MARION	13,531	13,253	12,759	3,032	2,496	1,624	22.4	18.8	12.7
MARLBORO	11,715	11,938	11,728	2,046	2,043	1,364	17.5	17.1	11.6
MCCORMICK	3,507	3,454	3,453	605	491	365	17.3	14.2	10.6
NEWBERRY	18,407	18,554	18,275	1,951	1,727	1,034	10.6	9.3	5.7
OCONEE	31,026	30,682	30,472	4,139	3,254	2,040	13.3	10.6	6.7
ORANGEBURG	40,617	40,618	40,762	6,318	5,507	3,415	15.6	13.6	8.4
PICKENS	59,963	59,658	58,191	5,875	4,792	2,874	9.8	8.0	4.9
RICHLAND	182,325	182,694	179,370	15,576	13,963	9,679	8.5	7.6	5.4
SALUDA	9,266	9,265	9,055	804	702	443	8.7	7.6	4.9
SPARTANBURG MSA	142,318	140,171	135,562	15,313	12,838	7,704	10.8	9.2	5.7
SUMTER MSA	42,805	42,607	43,296	5,526	4,546	3,394	12.9	10.7	7.8
UNION	12,150	11,956	11,607	2,073	1,722	1,087	17.1	14.4	9.4
WILLIAMSBURG	15,668	15,710	15,247	2,476	2,197	1,544	15.8	14.0	10.1
YORK	109,815	107,839	105,452	14,071	10,651	6,399	12.8	9.9	6.1
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	321,502	319,906	312,348	27,767	23,636	14,367	8.6	7.4	4.6
COLA MSA	374,705	374,918	367,149	32,032	28,172	18,429	8.5	7.5	5.0
FLORENCE MSA	96,713	96,436	93,960	11,121	9,759	6,115	11.5	10.1	6.5
GRNV MSA	320,623	319,988	313,065	29,887	25,073	15,721	9.3	7.8	5.0
South Carolina*	2,188.4	2,193.2	2,128.0	228.0	193.1	121.5	10.4	8.8	5.7

* Seasonally Adjusted