

## WORKFORCE TRENDS

# Newsline



Released: April 17, 2009

### SC Unemployment Rises to 11.4%, But Jobs Increase

South Carolina's jobless rate rose to 11.4% in March equaling the highest rate ever recorded since January 1983, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. The March figure was five-tenths of a point higher than the revised February rate of 10.9%. The state's labor force dropped slightly to 2,185,451 while the number of unemployed jumped 10,221 to reach a record high of 248,578. The national unemployment rate also rose in March to 8.5% compared to February's rate of 8.1%.

Despite the continued rise in unemployment, the number of non-farm jobs in the state rose for the first time since August 2008. Nearly 7,000 jobs were gained in March with seasonal gains recorded in Leisure and Hospitality (+5,600), Retail Trade (+3,300), and Business and Professional Services (+1,500). Gains in health care pushed Education and Health Services upward by 1,400. Manufacturing and Construction lost 2,900 and 1,600 jobs, respectively; a vivid reminder that the recession is not over. The overall job count remains more than 94,000 below the year-ago count.



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**

March-09

Industry	March 2009	February 2009	March 2008	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
<b>Total Nonag. Employment</b>	<b>1,850,200</b>	<b>1,843,300</b>	<b>1,944,500</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>-94,300</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	4,200	4,200	4,500	0	-300
Construction	103,500	105,100	116,000	-1,600	-12,500
Manufacturing	219,200	222,100	246,500	-2,900	-27,300
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	358,100	355,000	376,100	3,100	-18,000
Information	29,500	29,500	28,200	0	1,300
Financial Activities	102,900	103,700	106,300	-800	-3,400
Professional and Business Services	207,500	206,000	223,600	1,500	-16,100
Educational and Health Services	209,000	207,600	207,200	1,400	1,800
Leisure and Hospitality	198,700	193,100	214,700	5,600	-16,000
Government	346,700	345,800	350,100	900	-3,400

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY**

**Unemployment Rate**

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		March 2009	February 2009	Change
1	Allendale	22.3	23.3	-1.0
2	Marion	21.1	21.8	-0.7
3	Chester	20.6	20.7	-0.1
4	Union	20.0	19.5	0.5
5	Marlboro	18.6	19.6	-1.0
6	Bamberg	18.0	16.8	1.2
	Lancaster	18.0	18.3	-0.3
8	Barnwell	17.2	17.2	0.0
9	McCormick	16.9	19.1	-2.2
10	Chesterfield	16.8	17.5	-0.7
11	Hampton	16.5	16.1	0.4
12	Cherokee	16.4	16.9	-0.5
13	Dillon	16.2	16.7	-0.5
14	Clarendon	15.9	16.0	-0.1
	Orangeburg	15.9	15.5	0.4
16	Williamsburg	15.4	16.0	-0.6
17	Lee	14.8	14.9	-0.1
18	Oconee	14.3	13.7	0.6
19	Abbeville	14.0	15.1	-1.1
20	Colleton	13.7	14.2	-0.5
21	Darlington	13.6	13.1	0.5
22	Sumter	13.3	13.6	-0.3
23	Greenwood	13.0	13.5	-0.5
24	Georgetown	12.8	13.0	-0.2
	Horry	12.8	14.2	-1.4
26	Fairfield	12.7	13.0	-0.3
	York	12.7	14.2	-1.5
28	Newberry	12.2	12.8	-0.6
29	Anderson	11.9	12.6	-0.7
30	Spartanburg	11.6	11.4	0.2
31	Florence	11.2	11.0	0.2
32	Calhoun	11.1	11.3	-0.2
33	Laurens	10.9	11.1	-0.2
34	Kershaw	10.7	10.8	-0.1
35	Berkeley	10.2	10.2	0.0
36	Jasper	10.1	10.5	-0.4
37	Edgefield	9.9	10.9	-1.0
	Pickens	9.9	9.7	0.2
39	Dorchester	9.7	9.8	-0.1
40	Greenville	9.6	9.4	0.2
41	Saluda	9.3	9.4	-0.1
42	Richland	8.8	8.5	0.3
43	Aiken	8.6	9.4	-0.8
	Beaufort	8.6	8.6	0.0
45	Charleston	8.4	8.2	0.2
46	Lexington	7.9	7.8	0.1

**LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA**

March-09

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	March 2009	February 2009	March 2008	March 2009	February 2009	March 2008	March 2009	February 2009	March 2008
ABBEVILLE	11,501	11,639	11,400	1,615	1,763	826	14.0	15.1	7.2
AIKEN	75,995	76,445	73,746	6,571	7,164	3,320	8.6	9.4	4.5
ALLENDALE	3,362	3,373	3,240	750	787	463	22.3	23.3	14.3
ANDERSON MSA	87,543	87,171	85,092	10,411	10,952	4,911	11.9	12.6	5.8
BAMBERG	6,287	6,190	6,233	1,129	1,041	553	18.0	16.8	8.9
BARNWELL	9,058	9,059	8,688	1,557	1,556	769	17.2	17.2	8.9
BEAUFORT	62,939	63,237	62,453	5,425	5,465	2,606	8.6	8.6	4.2
BERKELEY	79,976	80,303	78,037	8,150	8,194	3,946	10.2	10.2	5.1
CALHOUN	7,171	7,147	6,839	794	805	370	11.1	11.3	5.4
CHARLESTON	176,000	176,339	173,538	14,737	14,442	7,190	8.4	8.2	4.1
CHEROKEE	25,884	26,188	25,534	4,241	4,418	1,786	16.4	16.9	7.0
CHESTER	15,750	15,819	15,164	3,243	3,270	1,597	20.6	20.7	10.5
CHESTERFIELD	19,121	19,259	18,331	3,210	3,361	1,311	16.8	17.5	7.2
CLARENDON	12,513	12,481	12,357	1,988	2,000	981	15.9	16.0	7.9
COLLETON	16,752	16,812	16,321	2,301	2,379	1,014	13.7	14.2	6.2
DARLINGTON	32,851	32,573	31,026	4,456	4,282	2,085	13.6	13.1	6.7
DILLON	13,028	13,044	12,749	2,110	2,174	1,104	16.2	16.7	8.7
DORCHESTER	63,958	64,251	62,346	6,224	6,290	2,792	9.7	9.8	4.5
EDGEFIELD	11,220	11,327	10,824	1,106	1,234	564	9.9	10.9	5.2
FAIRFIELD	11,497	11,478	11,147	1,460	1,496	966	12.7	13.0	8.7
FLORENCE	65,380	64,946	62,798	7,346	7,124	3,647	11.2	11.0	5.8
GEORGETOWN	30,403	30,251	30,034	3,903	3,939	1,850	12.8	13.0	6.2
GREENVILLE	228,271	228,305	222,546	22,002	21,353	9,742	9.6	9.4	4.4
GREENWOOD	29,948	30,253	30,424	3,906	4,077	1,927	13.0	13.5	6.3
HAMPTON	7,823	7,768	7,577	1,287	1,254	530	16.5	16.1	7.0
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	129,673	127,080	128,490	16,571	18,033	7,408	12.8	14.2	5.8
JASPER	10,052	10,141	9,878	1,016	1,064	475	10.1	10.5	4.8
KERSHAW	30,996	30,835	29,704	3,329	3,319	1,640	10.7	10.8	5.5
LANCASTER	29,626	29,867	29,433	5,342	5,480	2,999	18.0	18.3	10.2
LAURENS	34,045	34,257	33,423	3,696	3,808	2,113	10.9	11.1	6.3
LEE	8,264	8,197	8,011	1,224	1,223	633	14.8	14.9	7.9
LEXINGTON	135,106	134,260	131,362	10,675	10,509	5,144	7.9	7.8	3.9
MARION	13,302	13,300	12,649	2,806	2,893	1,430	21.1	21.8	11.3
MARLBORO	11,804	11,919	11,517	2,198	2,333	1,185	18.6	19.6	10.3
McCORMICK	3,441	3,541	3,425	581	678	333	16.9	19.1	9.7
NEWBERRY	18,550	18,603	18,392	2,259	2,388	973	12.2	12.8	5.3
OCONEE	31,057	30,862	30,131	4,451	4,222	1,759	14.3	13.7	5.8
ORANGEBURG	40,279	40,082	40,943	6,399	6,206	3,101	15.9	15.5	7.6
PICKENS	59,993	60,065	58,452	5,912	5,805	2,657	9.9	9.7	4.5
RICHLAND	184,066	182,450	179,125	16,273	15,573	8,922	8.8	8.5	5.0
SALUDA	9,393	9,346	9,069	878	877	431	9.3	9.4	4.8
SPARTANBURG MSA	139,629	140,166	136,005	16,190	15,969	7,130	11.6	11.4	5.2
SUMTER MSA	42,339	42,604	43,333	5,624	5,791	3,128	13.3	13.6	7.2
UNION	12,326	12,299	11,532	2,461	2,401	1,028	20.0	19.5	8.9
WILLIAMSBURG	15,554	15,547	15,193	2,403	2,492	1,381	15.4	16.0	9.1
YORK	107,263	109,959	105,609	13,583	15,598	5,779	12.7	14.2	5.5
<b>Multi County MSAs</b>									
CHAS MSA	319,934	320,893	313,921	29,111	28,926	13,928	9.1	9.0	4.4
COLA MSA	378,228	375,515	367,245	33,408	32,579	17,473	8.8	8.7	4.8
FLORENCE MSA	98,231	97,519	93,824	11,802	11,406	5,732	12.0	11.7	6.1
GRNV MSA	322,309	322,627	314,420	31,610	30,966	14,511	9.8	9.6	4.6
<b>South Carolina*</b>	<b>2,185.5</b>	<b>2,189.3</b>	<b>2,131.3</b>	<b>248.6</b>	<b>238.4</b>	<b>125.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>

\* Seasonally Adjusted