

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



Released: May 22, 2009

SC Jobless Rate reaches 11.5% in April

South Carolina's unemployment rate edged upward in April to 11.5%, one-tenth of a point above the March rate of 11.4%, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. The state's labor force rose nearly 14,000 to 2,201,031, and the number of unemployed rose 2,700 to 252,882. The National jobless rate also rose in April jumping from 8.5% in March to 8.9%.

The number of nonfarm jobs rose for the second month in a row, gaining 9,700 in April to reach a total of 1,861,400. Most of the gains were seasonal in nature as warmer weather boosted jobs in Leisure and Hospitality (+6,700), Professional and Business Services (+4,800), and Retail Trade (+800). Job gains were also recorded in Government (+800), Other Services (+900), Educational and Health Services (+400), and Financial Activities (+400). On the down side, Manufacturing and Construction continued their downward spiral losing 1,400 and 900 jobs, respectively, giving further evidence that the recession is not over. The overall job count for April was almost 89,000 jobs below the year-ago level.

Roosevelt T. Halley, Executive Director of the Commission, said the recent job gains are certainly a welcome sign that has helped slow the pace of the recessionary trend. He cautioned, however, that we are not "out of the woods" yet, and that we are likely to see higher jobless rates before the economy begins to improve.



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

April-09

Industry	April 2009	March 2009	April 2008	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,861,400	1,851,700	1,950,000	9,700	-88,600
Natural Resources and Mining	4,200	4,200	4,400	0	-200
Construction	103,000	103,900	114,200	-900	-11,200
Manufacturing	218,700	220,100	245,400	-1,400	-26,700
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	356,700	358,700	374,900	-2,000	-18,200
Information	29,500	29,500	28,600	0	900
Financial Activities	103,400	103,000	106,100	400	-2,700
Professional and Business Services	211,800	207,000	224,400	4,800	-12,600
Educational and Health Services	207,700	207,300	206,000	400	1,700
Leisure and Hospitality	206,400	199,700	223,400	6,700	-17,000
Government	347,800	347,000	350,900	800	-3,100

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		April 2009	March 2009	Change
1	Chester	21.8	21.4	0.4
2	Allendale	21.7	22.2	-0.5
3	Marlboro	21.5	20.4	1.1
4	Marion	21.1	21.1	0.0
5	Union	20.5	19.9	0.6
6	Lancaster	19.0	19.0	0.0
7	Chesterfield	17.1	17.7	-0.6
8	Cherokee	16.9	17.0	-0.1
9	Dillon	16.8	16.6	0.2
10	McCormick	16.5	17.2	-0.7
11	Barnwell	16.4	17.0	-0.6
12	Clarendon	16.3	15.8	0.5
13	Bamberg	15.9	17.8	-1.9
	Hampton	15.9	16.5	-0.6
	Lee	15.9	14.8	1.1
16	Orangeburg	15.1	15.8	-0.7
17	Williamsburg	15.0	15.4	-0.4
18	York	14.4	13.7	0.7
19	Abbeville	14.3	14.1	0.2
20	Oconee	14.0	14.4	-0.4
21	Greenwood	13.6	13.0	0.6
	Sumter	13.6	13.2	0.4
23	Colleton	13.5	13.6	-0.1
24	Fairfield	13.4	12.7	0.7
25	Darlington	12.7	13.5	-0.8
26	Anderson	11.6	11.8	-0.2
	Georgetown	11.6	12.8	-1.2
	Spartanburg	11.6	11.6	0.0
29	Newberry	11.5	12.2	-0.7
30	Edgefield	11.2	10.9	0.3
	Horry	11.2	12.8	-1.6
32	Florence	11.1	11.2	-0.1
33	Laurens	10.9	10.7	0.2
34	Kershaw	10.8	10.7	0.1
35	Calhoun	10.6	11.0	-0.4
36	Berkeley	9.9	10.1	-0.2
	Jasper	9.9	10.2	-0.3
38	Pickens	9.6	9.8	-0.2
39	Aiken	9.5	9.0	0.5
	Dorchester	9.5	9.7	-0.2
	Greenville	9.5	9.6	-0.1
42	Saluda	9.0	9.3	-0.3
43	Beaufort	8.5	8.6	-0.1
44	Richland	8.4	8.8	-0.4
45	Charleston	7.8	8.3	-0.5
46	Lexington	7.6	7.8	-0.2

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

April-09

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	April 2009	March 2009	April 2008	April 2009	March 2009	April 2008	April 2009	March 2009	April 2008
ABBEVILLE	11,640	11,488	11,305	1,668	1,621	699	14.3	14.1	6.2
AIKEN	77,512	76,116	74,772	7,354	6,861	3,321	9.5	9.0	4.4
ALLENDALE	3,351	3,348	3,260	727	744	465	21.7	22.2	14.3
ANDERSON MSA	88,546	87,515	84,949	10,294	10,326	4,370	11.6	11.8	5.1
BAMBERG	6,180	6,256	6,227	982	1,112	544	15.9	17.8	8.7
BARNWELL	9,041	9,014	8,736	1,483	1,533	743	16.4	17.0	8.5
BEAUFORT	63,249	62,737	63,802	5,345	5,377	2,476	8.5	8.6	3.9
BERKELEY	81,466	80,164	79,153	8,073	8,098	3,765	9.9	10.1	4.8
CALHOUN	7,185	7,165	6,881	765	785	359	10.6	11.0	5.2
CHARLESTON	178,815	176,429	175,921	14,035	14,629	6,663	7.8	8.3	3.8
CHEROKEE	26,287	26,007	25,652	4,452	4,411	2,342	16.9	17.0	9.1
CHESTER	16,094	15,864	15,039	3,504	3,393	1,491	21.8	21.4	9.9
CHESTERFIELD	19,313	19,289	18,365	3,312	3,418	1,301	17.1	17.7	7.1
CLARENDON	12,641	12,472	12,244	2,062	1,975	972	16.3	15.8	7.9
COLLETON	16,854	16,700	16,501	2,277	2,275	1,046	13.5	13.6	6.3
DARLINGTON	32,686	32,800	31,108	4,163	4,414	2,252	12.7	13.5	7.2
DILLON	13,196	13,057	12,720	2,215	2,166	1,097	16.8	16.6	8.6
DORCHESTER	65,173	64,116	63,312	6,180	6,190	2,716	9.5	9.7	4.3
EDGEFIELD	11,508	11,326	10,976	1,287	1,237	566	11.2	10.9	5.2
FAIRFIELD	11,674	11,503	11,279	1,570	1,461	1,014	13.4	12.7	9.0
FLORENCE	65,579	65,321	62,418	7,285	7,306	3,442	11.1	11.2	5.5
GEORGETOWN	30,400	30,311	30,094	3,515	3,868	1,770	11.6	12.8	5.9
GREENVILLE	229,958	228,325	224,077	21,786	21,862	9,478	9.5	9.6	4.2
GREENWOOD	30,373	29,850	30,463	4,131	3,874	1,826	13.6	13.0	6.0
HAMPTON	7,812	7,803	7,631	1,239	1,284	520	15.9	16.5	6.8
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	133,895	129,722	132,568	15,031	16,570	6,880	11.2	12.8	5.2
JASPER	10,101	10,034	10,116	1,003	1,022	481	9.9	10.2	4.8
KERSHAW	31,219	30,994	29,780	3,365	3,313	1,484	10.8	10.7	5.0
LANCASTER	30,173	29,915	29,238	5,724	5,696	2,903	19.0	19.0	9.9
LAURENS	34,373	34,030	33,484	3,744	3,653	1,910	10.9	10.7	5.7
LEE	8,420	8,254	7,920	1,339	1,225	586	15.9	14.8	7.4
LEXINGTON	135,581	135,058	132,189	10,309	10,564	4,928	7.6	7.8	3.7
MARION	13,455	13,277	12,690	2,839	2,802	1,391	21.1	21.1	11.0
MARLBORO	12,323	12,035	11,623	2,652	2,451	1,346	21.5	20.4	11.6
McCORMICK	3,455	3,444	3,420	569	592	312	16.5	17.2	9.1
NEWBERRY	18,546	18,507	18,341	2,133	2,249	1,023	11.5	12.2	5.6
OCONEE	31,199	31,026	30,273	4,383	4,465	1,722	14.0	14.4	5.7
ORANGEBURG	40,237	40,148	40,726	6,062	6,340	3,001	15.1	15.8	7.4
PICKENS	60,377	59,993	58,965	5,797	5,861	2,700	9.6	9.8	4.6
RICHLAND	184,499	184,010	179,868	15,572	16,132	8,258	8.4	8.8	4.6
SALUDA	9,417	9,390	9,136	844	870	427	9.0	9.3	4.7
SPARTANBURG MSA	141,654	139,657	136,504	16,478	16,131	7,284	11.6	11.6	5.3
SUMTER MSA	42,794	42,193	42,964	5,829	5,573	2,972	13.6	13.2	6.9
UNION	12,526	12,292	11,688	2,570	2,444	1,129	20.5	19.9	9.7
WILLIAMSBURG	15,613	15,514	15,081	2,339	2,389	1,352	15.0	15.4	9.0
YORK	110,134	108,285	105,867	15,912	14,857	5,868	14.4	13.7	5.5
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	325,453	320,708	318,386	28,288	28,917	13,144	8.7	9.0	4.1
COLA MSA	379,575	378,121	369,133	32,425	33,126	16,470	8.5	8.8	4.5
FLORENCE MSA	98,265	98,121	93,526	11,448	11,720	5,694	11.7	11.9	6.1
GRNV MSA	324,708	322,348	316,526	31,327	31,376	14,088	9.6	9.7	4.5
South Carolina*	2,201.0	2,187.1	2,135.3	252.9	250.1	131.4	11.5	11.4	6.2

* Seasonally Adjusted