

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



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S.C. Unemployment Rate is 9.5% in December

With momentum from ongoing layoffs and an expanding labor force, South Carolina's unemployment rate continued to climb in December reaching 9.5%, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. This is more than a full percentage point above November's rate of 8.4%, and the highest rate since January 1983. The state's labor force grew nearly 14,300 in December to 2,184,613. The number of unemployed grew almost 25,600 to 207,171, the highest level on record. The national unemployment rate also rose sharply, climbing from 6.7% in November to 7.2% in December.

The number of jobs in the state plummeted 22,000 in December to 1,906,900. This is the largest December job loss on record. Leading the downturn was Professional and Business Services (-8,500), followed by Leisure and Hospitality (-6,300), Manufacturing (-2,100), and Construction (-1,400). Construction has posted losses for the last 14 consecutive months, while Manufacturing has posted nine consecutive months of job losses. The overall job count dropped to 54,100 below the previous year's level.

Roosevelt T. Halley, Executive Director of the Commission, said "the unemployment and job count data for 2008 will be revised over the next month through the annual benchmarking process mandated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The updated data series will be released along with the January 2009 estimates."



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

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
December-08

Industry	December 2008	November 2008	December 2007	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,906,900	1,928,900	1,961,000	-22,000	-54,100
Natural Resources and Mining	4,200	4,300	4,600	-100	-400
Construction	105,900	107,300	126,900	-1,400	-21,000
Manufacturing	236,100	238,200	248,900	-2,100	-12,800
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	371,700	373,600	385,700	-1,900	-14,000
Information	27,500	27,400	27,700	100	-200
Financial Activities	107,200	107,300	107,200	-100	0
Professional and Business Services	213,100	221,600	227,000	-8,500	-13,900
Educational and Health Services	209,500	209,400	205,300	100	4,200
Leisure and Hospitality	202,600	208,900	208,200	-6,300	-5,600
Government	355,900	355,900	346,500	0	9,400

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		December 2008	November 2008	Change
1	Allendale	19.7	17.5	2.2
2	Marion	19.0	16.9	2.1
3	Chester	17.3	13.6	3.7
4	Marlboro	16.9	14.9	2.0
5	Barnwell	15.8	14.2	1.6
6	Bamberg	15.5	14.2	1.3
7	Union	14.7	12.7	2.0
8	Dillon	14.2	12.0	2.2
	McCormick	14.2	11.8	2.4
	Williamsburg	14.2	12.5	1.7
11	Fairfield	14.1	11.8	2.3
12	Lancaster	13.9	12.5	1.4
13	Orangeburg	13.6	12.5	1.1
14	Cherokee	13.2	11.7	1.5
15	Chesterfield	13.1	11.7	1.4
16	Hampton	12.7	10.7	2.0
17	Clarendon	12.6	11.7	0.9
18	Lee	12.2	10.7	1.5
19	Colleton	11.8	10.3	1.5
	Georgetown	11.8	10.0	1.8
21	Darlington	11.7	10.2	1.5
22	Horry	11.5	9.5	2.0
23	Abbeville	11.4	9.5	1.9
24	Greenwood	11.2	9.3	1.9
25	Oconee	10.9	9.3	1.6
26	Sumter	10.7	9.7	1.0
27	Calhoun	10.1	8.9	1.2
28	York	9.9	8.7	1.2
29	Newberry	9.7	8.8	0.9
30	Anderson	9.6	8.0	1.6
31	Spartanburg	9.4	8.3	1.1
32	Laurens	9.3	8.2	1.1
33	Florence	9.1	8.0	1.1
34	Edgefield	8.4	8.0	0.4
	Kershaw	8.4	7.8	0.6
36	Berkeley	8.2	7.4	0.8
37	Jasper	8.1	6.9	1.2
38	Pickens	8.0	7.3	0.7
39	Dorchester	7.9	6.9	1.0
40	Richland	7.8	7.1	0.7
41	Aiken	7.7	7.0	0.7
42	Greenville	7.6	6.8	0.8
43	Saluda	7.5	7.2	0.3
44	Beaufort	7.0	6.2	0.8
45	Charleston	6.9	6.3	0.6
46	Lexington	6.5	5.9	0.6

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

December-08

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	December 2008	November 2008	December 2007	December 2008	November 2008	December 2007	December 2008	November 2008	December 2007
ABBEVILLE	11,270	11,194	11,443	1,288	1,068	1,121	11.4	9.5	9.8
AIKEN	75,415	74,866	74,850	5,788	5,228	4,247	7.7	7.0	5.7
ALLENDALE	3,774	3,733	3,694	744	653	543	19.7	17.5	14.7
ANDERSON MSA	86,253	85,309	84,465	8,307	6,823	5,406	9.6	8.0	6.4
BAMBERG	6,336	6,354	6,312	979	902	718	15.5	14.2	11.4
BARNWELL	9,075	9,034	8,891	1,431	1,286	976	15.8	14.2	11.0
BEAUFORT	64,179	64,594	65,273	4,466	3,994	3,141	7.0	6.2	4.8
BERKELEY	76,635	76,377	75,009	6,318	5,646	4,021	8.2	7.4	5.4
CALHOUN	7,362	7,302	7,236	742	653	531	10.1	8.9	7.3
CHARLESTON	176,422	176,160	174,128	12,259	11,031	8,400	6.9	6.3	4.8
CHEROKEE	25,754	25,633	24,952	3,389	2,988	1,942	13.2	11.7	7.8
CHESTER	16,128	15,627	15,648	2,792	2,122	1,936	17.3	13.6	12.4
CHESTERFIELD	18,867	18,814	18,443	2,477	2,197	1,550	13.1	11.7	8.4
CLARENDON	12,599	12,720	12,793	1,593	1,492	1,253	12.6	11.7	9.8
COLLETON	16,881	16,842	16,711	1,995	1,740	1,304	11.8	10.3	7.8
DARLINGTON	33,466	33,155	32,005	3,924	3,376	2,366	11.7	10.2	7.4
DILLON	13,422	13,310	13,295	1,903	1,603	1,360	14.2	12.0	10.2
DORCHESTER	63,501	63,235	62,124	4,998	4,388	3,063	7.9	6.9	4.9
EDGEFIELD	11,038	10,988	10,951	930	879	701	8.4	8.0	6.4
FAIRFIELD	12,169	11,904	11,591	1,713	1,402	1,001	14.1	11.8	8.6
FLORENCE	65,439	65,146	64,000	5,971	5,201	4,338	9.1	8.0	6.8
GEORGETOWN	29,788	29,721	29,621	3,514	2,981	2,335	11.8	10.0	7.9
GREENVILLE	225,617	225,503	221,114	17,168	15,382	11,278	7.6	6.8	5.1
GREENWOOD	30,724	30,556	30,630	3,445	2,841	2,304	11.2	9.3	7.5
HAMPTON	8,071	8,015	8,017	1,029	860	694	12.7	10.7	8.7
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	129,887	130,121	128,117	14,944	12,315	8,648	11.5	9.5	6.8
JASPER	10,523	10,541	10,557	857	731	499	8.1	6.9	4.7
KERSHAW	30,487	30,410	30,126	2,570	2,371	1,853	8.4	7.8	6.2
LANCASTER	29,974	29,855	29,943	4,178	3,727	3,388	13.9	12.5	11.3
LAURENS	35,118	34,962	34,910	3,276	2,865	2,856	9.3	8.2	8.2
LEE	8,180	8,182	8,225	995	874	753	12.2	10.7	9.2
LEXINGTON	134,069	133,842	132,976	8,658	7,883	5,964	6.5	5.9	4.5
McCORMICK	3,531	3,488	3,561	500	410	408	14.2	11.8	11.5
MARION	13,333	13,210	12,850	2,533	2,231	1,690	19.0	16.9	13.2
MARLBORO	12,223	12,128	12,032	2,069	1,803	1,491	16.9	14.9	12.4
NEWBERRY	18,001	18,096	17,917	1,755	1,597	1,121	9.7	8.8	6.3
OCONEE	30,317	30,215	29,963	3,296	2,825	2,124	10.9	9.3	7.1
ORANGEBURG	41,167	41,289	40,883	5,604	5,147	3,902	13.6	12.5	9.5
PICKENS	60,195	60,165	58,846	4,844	4,370	3,127	8.0	7.3	5.3
RICHLAND	180,813	180,231	179,077	14,062	12,751	10,197	7.8	7.1	5.7
SALUDA	9,554	9,564	9,417	716	688	467	7.5	7.2	5.0
SPARTANBURG MSA	137,824	136,522	133,010	12,949	11,293	8,455	9.4	8.3	6.4
SUMTER MSA	42,960	43,722	45,069	4,611	4,242	3,793	10.7	9.7	8.4
UNION	11,868	11,737	11,617	1,749	1,494	1,234	14.7	12.7	10.6
WILLIAMSBURG	15,715	15,671	15,602	2,226	1,966	1,652	14.2	12.5	10.6
YORK	108,194	107,495	104,542	10,719	9,395	6,074	9.9	8.7	5.8
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	316,559	315,772	311,261	23,576	21,065	15,484	7.4	6.7	5.0
COLA MSA	374,454	373,252	370,424	28,462	25,748	20,014	7.6	6.9	5.4
FLORENCE MSA	98,905	98,301	96,005	9,895	8,577	6,704	10.0	8.7	7.0
GRNV MSA	320,930	320,631	314,871	25,288	22,617	17,262	7.9	7.1	5.5
South Carolina*	2,184.6	2,170.3	2,150.2	207.2	181.6	133.4	9.5	8.4	6.2

* Seasonally Adjusted