

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



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South Carolina's Unemployment Rate Increases in December

South Carolina's unemployment rate rose sharply in December to 12.6%, from a November rate of 12.3%, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. December's jobless figures set a record high for the state. Estimates produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the state's labor force at 2,166,699 in December, a decrease of 6,720. The number of unemployed increased 6,352 to 273,175. The national unemployment rate was 10.0% in December, unchanged from November.

The state's job count decreased by 9,900 in December, with most of the decreases occurring in Professional and Business Services (-4,000), Leisure and Hospitality (-5,200), and Manufacturing (-800). Partially offsetting the losses were gains in Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (+1,000), and Retail Trade (+700). Of note, slight gains in Construction were observed for the first time since May of 2009. The state's overall job count was 38,100 below the year-ago level and nearly 109,900 below the December 2007 level when the recent recession began.

"December's labor force levels were the lowest since September, 2008, and we have seen unemployment reach record levels in South Carolina. A net increase in private sector job creation is our # 1 public policy problem, and a net increase in private job creation will be pivotal in reversing the trend in state's unemployment rate" said Sam Foster, Interim Executive Director of the Commission.

Special Note:

On October 2, 2009, the Bureau of Labor Statistics stated that job losses reported for the nation during the 12-month period ending last March were 824,000 more than were originally reported. This revision was the result of an annual benchmarking process where preliminary job count estimates developed through sampling and estimating models are revised based on more up-to-date data from employer payroll records. South Carolina, as well as all other states, will be conducting their annual benchmarking over the next few months. If national trends are followed, most states will likely show greater jobs losses than are currently being reported in the preliminary estimates. The revised benchmarked data will be released early in 2010.



S. C. Employment Security Commission Samuel R. Foster, Interim Executive Director

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
December-09

Industry	December 2009	November 2009	December 2008	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,847,500	1,857,400	1,885,600	-9,900	-38,100
Natural Resources and Mining	4,200	4,100	4,200	100	0
Construction	96,200	96,100	108,500	100	-12,300
Manufacturing	211,900	212,700	233,600	-800	-21,700
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	358,800	357,500	368,500	1,300	-9,700
Information	30,100	29,800	29,400	300	700
Financial Activities	101,400	101,700	105,300	-300	-3,900
Professional and Business Services	224,000	228,000	210,200	-4,000	13,800
Educational and Health Services	211,400	211,200	209,000	200	2,400
Leisure and Hospitality	189,200	194,400	196,600	-5,200	-7,400
Government	349,100	350,200	350,200	-1,100	-1,100

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		December 2009	November 2009	Change
1	Allendale	23.6	22.6	1.0
2	Marion	22.6	21.2	1.4
3	Chester	22.5	21.5	1.0
4	Union	21.7	21.2	0.5
5	Marlboro	21.0	21.2	-0.2
6	Barnwell	20.1	19.6	0.5
7	Dillon	18.6	18.0	0.6
8	Bamberg	18.5	17.7	0.8
	Lancaster	18.5	19.0	-0.5
10	McCormick	18.3	16.8	1.5
11	Orangeburg	18.1	17.5	0.6
12	Chesterfield	17.7	17.9	-0.2
13	Williamsburg	17.6	16.4	1.2
14	Clarendon	17.1	16.4	0.7
15	Hampton	16.9	16.7	0.2
16	Cherokee	16.8	16.8	0.0
17	Lee	16.4	16.0	0.4
18	Abbeville	15.9	14.9	1.0
19	York	15.5	15.9	-0.4
20	Colleton	15.4	14.6	0.8
21	Georgetown	14.9	13.9	1.0
22	Horry	14.8	13.3	1.5
23	Oconee	14.6	14.2	0.4
24	Greenwood	14.5	14.1	0.4
25	Sumter	14.0	13.7	0.3
26	Anderson	13.4	12.5	0.9
	Darlington	13.4	13.0	0.4
28	Calhoun	13.2	13.0	0.2
29	Fairfield	12.9	12.8	0.1
30	Florence	12.7	12.3	0.4
31	Spartanburg	12.7	12.4	0.3
32	Laurens	12.2	11.9	0.3
	Newberry	12.2	12.6	-0.4
34	Edgefield	11.6	10.6	1.0
35	Kershaw	11.4	10.8	0.6
36	Jasper	11.0	11.3	-0.3
37	Berkeley	10.9	10.9	0.0
38	Pickens	10.8	10.9	-0.1
39	Greenville	10.5	10.4	0.1
40	Aiken	10.4	9.3	1.1
41	Dorchester	10.3	10.2	0.1
42	Saluda	10.2	9.9	0.3
43	Richland	10.0	10.0	0.0
44	Charleston	9.8	9.5	0.3
45	Beaufort	9.3	9.3	0.0
46	Lexington	8.7	8.7	0.0

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

December-09

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	December 2009	November 2009	December 2008	December 2009	November 2009	December 2008	December 2009	November 2009	December 2008
ABBEVILLE	11,462	11,402	11,453	1,818	1,702	1,266	15.9	14.9	11.1
AIKEN	74,817	74,193	75,770	7,755	6,909	5,728	10.4	9.3	7.6
ALLENDALE	3,307	3,276	3,437	779	742	734	23.6	22.6	21.4
ANDERSON MSA	86,248	86,228	85,664	11,533	10,780	8,209	13.4	12.5	9.6
BAMBERG	6,174	6,136	6,314	1,143	1,085	966	18.5	17.7	15.3
BARNWELL	9,148	9,122	9,157	1,838	1,784	1,409	20.1	19.6	15.4
BEAUFORT	62,069	62,440	64,024	5,758	5,803	4,447	9.3	9.3	6.9
BERKELEY	79,305	80,293	79,597	8,634	8,791	6,425	10.9	10.9	8.1
CALHOUN	7,156	7,205	7,144	943	936	731	13.2	13.0	10.2
CHARLESTON	175,881	177,467	176,522	17,212	16,933	12,239	9.8	9.5	6.9
CHEROKEE	25,422	25,545	25,838	4,272	4,279	3,351	16.8	16.8	13.0
CHESTER	15,746	15,643	15,766	3,543	3,368	2,760	22.5	21.5	17.5
CHESTERFIELD	18,835	18,972	18,907	3,335	3,389	2,437	17.7	17.9	12.9
CLARENDON	12,398	12,362	12,458	2,126	2,031	1,565	17.1	16.4	12.6
COLLETON	16,679	16,614	16,898	2,573	2,427	1,960	15.4	14.6	11.6
DARLINGTON	31,902	32,142	32,350	4,264	4,175	3,873	13.4	13.0	12.0
DILLON	13,044	13,003	13,138	2,429	2,346	1,880	18.6	18.0	14.3
DORCHESTER	63,321	64,012	63,787	6,516	6,540	4,972	10.3	10.2	7.8
EDGEFIELD	11,051	10,965	11,126	1,281	1,163	922	11.6	10.6	8.3
FAIRFIELD	11,223	11,319	11,781	1,445	1,453	1,688	12.9	12.8	14.3
FLORENCE	64,691	65,168	64,086	8,205	8,010	5,886	12.7	12.3	9.2
GEORGETOWN	30,239	30,165	30,647	4,520	4,184	3,460	14.9	13.9	11.3
GREENVILLE	224,286	226,118	226,319	23,483	23,542	17,058	10.5	10.4	7.5
GREENWOOD	29,837	29,849	30,455	4,328	4,200	3,399	14.5	14.1	11.2
HAMPTON	7,646	7,662	7,797	1,289	1,282	1,014	16.9	16.7	13.0
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	125,881	127,813	125,630	18,631	16,955	14,896	14.8	13.3	11.9
JASPER	9,941	10,034	10,205	1,094	1,136	845	11.0	11.3	8.3
KERSHAW	30,415	30,492	30,358	3,461	3,294	2,537	11.4	10.8	8.4
LANCASTER	29,117	29,479	29,525	5,397	5,613	4,282	18.5	19.0	14.5
LAURENS	33,655	33,831	34,011	4,111	4,026	3,222	12.2	11.9	9.5
LEE	8,182	8,188	8,193	1,338	1,307	976	16.4	16.0	11.9
LEXINGTON	132,831	133,948	133,678	11,606	11,626	8,552	8.7	8.7	6.4
MARION	13,147	13,017	13,253	2,974	2,756	2,496	22.6	21.2	18.8
MARLBORO	11,687	11,752	11,938	2,457	2,487	2,043	21.0	21.2	17.1
McCORMICK	3,418	3,369	3,454	626	567	491	18.3	16.8	14.2
NEWBERRY	18,045	18,154	18,554	2,208	2,279	1,727	12.2	12.6	9.3
OCONEE	30,395	30,460	30,682	4,428	4,338	3,254	14.6	14.2	10.6
ORANGEBURG	40,414	40,321	40,618	7,302	7,054	5,507	18.1	17.5	13.6
PICKENS	59,044	59,579	59,658	6,396	6,466	4,792	10.8	10.9	8.0
RICHLAND	181,658	183,321	182,694	18,188	18,371	13,963	10.0	10.0	7.6
SALUDA	9,241	9,289	9,265	945	918	702	10.2	9.9	7.6
SPARTANBURG MSA	138,547	139,036	140,171	17,651	17,298	12,838	12.7	12.4	9.2
SUMTER MSA	42,261	42,590	42,607	5,929	5,855	4,546	14.0	13.7	10.7
UNION	12,329	12,302	11,956	2,681	2,607	1,722	21.7	21.2	14.4
WILLIAMSBURG	15,485	15,376	15,710	2,722	2,525	2,197	17.6	16.4	14.0
YORK	107,916	109,324	107,839	16,754	17,336	10,651	15.5	15.9	9.9
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	318,506	321,772	319,906	32,361	32,264	23,636	10.2	10.0	7.4
COLA MSA	372,525	375,574	374,918	36,589	36,597	28,172	9.8	9.7	7.5
FLORENCE MSA	96,593	97,310	96,436	12,469	12,185	9,759	12.9	12.5	10.1
GRNV MSA	316,985	319,528	319,988	33,990	34,034	25,073	10.7	10.7	7.8
South Carolina*	2,166.7	2,173.4	2,193.2	273.2	266.8	193.1	12.6	12.3	8.8

* Seasonally Adjusted