

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



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SC Jobless Rate Soars to 7.0%

South Carolina's unemployment rate jumped to 7.0% in July, the highest rate since October 2005, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. The rate was almost a full percentage point above the revised June rate of 6.1%. The state's labor force climbed just over 18,000 to 2,161,200 in July, and the number of unemployed grew by 18,700 to total 150,500. Roosevelt T. Halley, Executive Director of the Commission, said, "The closing of local schools for the summer recess, along with layoffs in Manufacturing and a sharp increase in the number of job-seekers returning to the job market, was responsible for the increase." The national unemployment rate also rose in July from 5.5% to 5.7%.

The number of non-farm jobs dropped 29,800 in July to 1,941,600. Most of the job losses occurred in Local Government (-31,900) as schools released non-teaching staff for the summer. Private sector jobs increased 1,800, with seasonal gains in Leisure and Hospitality (+4,900), Professional and Business Services (+700), and Financial Activities (+400). These gains, however, were almost completely offset by layoffs in Manufacturing (-2,400) and Retail Trade (-1,500). Construction cut 100 positions, marking the ninth straight monthly employment loss. The overall job count for July was 3,900 above the year-ago level.

Some unemployed individuals in the state are receiving additional assistance through the new Extended Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program. The federally-funded EUC program was enacted by Congress to assist eligible individuals nationwide who have exhausted benefits under the regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. The EUC program went into effect in early July.

According to Mr. Halley, there has been an overwhelming response to the EUC program in South Carolina, an indication that many in the state are feeling the impact of the struggling economy. "Since July 12, we have processed over 32,000 claims for EUC benefits," he said. The program will run through March 2009.



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

July-08

Industry	JULY 2008	JUNE 2008	JULY 2007	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,941,600	1,971,400	1,937,700	-29,800	3,900
Natural Resources and Mining	4,300	4,400	4,600	-100	-300
Construction	113,900	114,000	129,900	-100	-16,000
Manufacturing	243,900	246,300	250,800	-2,400	-6,900
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	375,000	376,800	378,500	-1,800	-3,500
Information	27,800	27,600	28,200	200	-400
Financial Activities	109,100	108,700	107,900	400	1,200
Professional and Business Services	229,500	228,800	226,900	700	2,600
Educational and Health Services	205,800	205,700	200,500	100	5,300
Leisure and Hospitality	240,400	235,500	230,900	4,900	9,500
Government	315,600	347,200	305,600	-31,600	10,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		July 2008	June 2008	Change
1	Allendale	15.9	14.4	1.5
2	Marion	14.7	12.1	2.6
3	Bamberg	12.6	10.9	1.7
4	Chester	11.8	10.6	1.2
	Fairfield	11.8	10.5	1.3
6	Marlboro	11.7	11.0	0.7
7	Orangeburg	11.4	10.2	1.2
8	Union	11.3	11.3	0.0
9	Barnwell	11.2	10.0	1.2
	Williamsburg	10.9	9.6	1.3
11	Lancaster	10.8	10.1	0.7
12	Dillon	10.6	9.7	0.9
	McCormick	10.6	10.2	0.4
14	Clarendon	10.5	9.1	1.4
15	Lee	10.0	9.3	0.7
16	Hampton	9.5	8.5	1.0
17	Cherokee	8.9	8.4	0.5
	Chesterfield	8.9	8.3	0.6
	Colleton	8.9	7.8	1.1
20	Abbeville	8.6	8.0	0.6
	Sumter	8.6	7.9	0.7
22	Darlington	8.5	8.1	0.4
23	Calhoun	8.2	7.0	1.2
24	Newberry	7.9	7.3	0.6
25	Greenwood	7.8	7.0	0.8
26	Oconee	7.7	6.9	0.8
27	Florence	7.5	6.7	0.8
28	Spartanburg	7.5	6.9	0.6
29	Georgetown	7.4	6.8	0.6
30	Laurens	7.3	6.4	0.9
31	Anderson	7.0	6.6	0.4
32	York	6.8	6.6	0.2
33	Kershaw	6.7	6.3	0.4
34	Berkeley	6.6	6.0	0.6
	Edgefield	6.6	6.2	0.4
	Richland	6.6	6.1	0.5
37	Jasper	6.4	5.7	0.7
38	Pickens	6.3	5.8	0.5
39	Dorchester	5.9	5.2	0.7
	Horry	5.9	5.6	0.3
	Saluda	5.9	5.3	0.6
42	Aiken	5.8	5.6	0.2
	Greenville	5.8	5.2	0.6
44	Beaufort	5.7	5.1	0.6
	Charleston	5.7	5.1	0.6
46	Lexington	5.2	4.7	0.5

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

July-08

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	July 2008	June 2008	July 2007	July 2008	June 2008	July 2007	July 2008	June 2008	July 2007
ABBEVILLE	11,393	11,361	11,539	975	905	984	8.6	8.0	8.5
AIKEN	76,129	76,074	75,898	4,388	4,225	4,422	5.8	5.6	5.8
ALLENDALE	3,748	3,712	3,616	596	535	378	15.9	14.4	10.5
ANDERSON MSA	86,329	85,644	86,022	6,066	5,657	5,381	7.0	6.6	6.3
BAMBERG	6,403	6,323	6,375	806	687	659	12.6	10.9	10.3
BARNWELL	8,976	8,908	8,954	1,002	890	875	11.2	10.0	9.8
BEAUFORT	66,736	66,451	66,907	3,816	3,363	3,083	5.7	5.1	4.6
BERKELEY	78,948	78,007	77,529	5,238	4,666	3,894	6.6	6.0	5.0
CALHOUN	7,392	7,257	7,316	607	511	526	8.2	7.0	7.2
CHARLESTON	182,489	180,506	180,390	10,404	9,284	8,480	5.7	5.1	4.7
CHEROKEE	25,512	25,491	25,153	2,273	2,132	1,809	8.9	8.4	7.2
CHESTER	15,724	15,569	15,781	1,854	1,653	1,925	11.8	10.6	12.2
CHESTERFIELD	18,689	18,684	18,706	1,672	1,559	1,520	8.9	8.3	8.1
CLARENDON	12,890	12,848	12,969	1,351	1,173	1,125	10.5	9.1	8.7
COLLETON	17,124	16,983	16,997	1,523	1,322	1,135	8.9	7.8	6.7
DARLINGTON	32,180	32,666	31,727	2,747	2,643	2,272	8.5	8.1	7.2
DILLON	13,335	13,334	13,613	1,409	1,291	1,433	10.6	9.7	10.5
DORCHESTER	65,166	64,386	64,187	3,840	3,367	2,923	5.9	5.2	4.6
EDGEFIELD	11,145	11,115	11,133	730	685	757	6.6	6.2	6.8
FAIRFIELD	12,146	11,907	11,778	1,430	1,251	1,053	11.8	10.5	8.9
FLORENCE	64,055	64,758	63,329	4,805	4,321	4,036	7.5	6.7	6.4
GEORGETOWN	30,377	30,269	30,279	2,260	2,071	1,852	7.4	6.8	6.1
GREENVILLE	227,715	225,484	223,820	13,115	11,668	11,030	5.8	5.2	4.9
GREENWOOD	31,072	30,934	31,271	2,434	2,168	2,324	7.8	7.0	7.4
HAMPTON	8,114	8,081	8,071	770	687	562	9.5	8.5	7.0
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	141,817	140,247	138,032	8,406	7,793	6,159	5.9	5.6	4.5
JASPER	10,884	10,835	10,849	699	622	518	6.4	5.7	4.8
KERSHAW	30,666	30,353	30,347	2,055	1,904	1,714	6.7	6.3	5.6
LANCASTER	30,156	29,996	29,718	3,265	3,021	2,842	10.8	10.1	9.6
LAURENS	35,351	34,911	35,167	2,570	2,249	2,662	7.3	6.4	7.6
LEE	8,223	8,252	8,330	824	765	722	10.0	9.3	8.7
LEXINGTON	135,563	134,114	134,539	7,035	6,312	5,908	5.2	4.7	4.4
McCORMICK	3,536	3,544	3,570	374	362	359	10.6	10.2	10.1
MARION	13,282	12,999	13,116	1,946	1,576	1,616	14.7	12.1	12.3
MARLBORO	11,806	11,853	12,186	1,378	1,305	1,498	11.7	11.0	12.3
NEWBERRY	18,220	18,236	18,215	1,433	1,326	1,093	7.9	7.3	6.0
OCONEE	30,515	30,337	30,766	2,339	2,086	2,318	7.7	6.9	7.5
ORANGEBURG	41,872	41,561	41,811	4,768	4,255	4,045	11.4	10.2	9.7
PICKENS	60,810	60,287	59,820	3,826	3,511	3,316	6.3	5.8	5.5
RICHLAND	183,047	180,974	181,368	12,151	11,042	10,335	6.6	6.1	5.7
SALUDA	9,628	9,507	9,564	571	501	499	5.9	5.3	5.2
SPARTANBURG MSA	136,035	135,951	132,358	10,199	9,404	8,373	7.5	6.9	6.3
SUMTER MSA	44,852	45,393	45,680	3,856	3,576	3,366	8.6	7.9	7.4
UNION	11,777	11,852	11,603	1,331	1,336	1,097	11.3	11.3	9.5
WILLIAMSBURG	15,814	15,710	15,803	1,721	1,507	1,460	10.9	9.6	9.2
YORK	108,292	107,916	104,257	7,328	7,091	6,218	6.8	6.6	6.0
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	326,605	322,899	322,106	19,483	17,317	15,297	6.0	5.4	4.7
COLA MSA	378,442	374,112	374,911	23,850	21,521	20,035	6.3	5.8	5.3
FLORENCE MSA	96,235	97,424	95,056	7,552	6,964	6,308	7.8	7.1	6.6
GRNV MSA	323,877	320,682	318,807	19,511	17,428	17,008	6.0	5.4	5.3
South Carolina*	2,161.2	2,143.0	2,137.6	150.5	131.8	124.5	7.0	6.1	5.8

* Seasonally Adjusted