

## WORKFORCE TRENDS

# Newsline



Released: August 21, 2009

### South Carolina's Unemployment Rate Drops in July

South Carolina's unemployment rate decreased in July to 11.8% the State Employment Security Commission reported today. This marked the first decline in the jobless rate since January 2008. The June rate remained at 12.1%. The state's labor force dropped 9,833 in July to 2,185,575, the lowest level since November 2008, while the number of unemployed decreased 7,742 to 258,465. The national unemployment rate was 9.4% in July, down slightly from 9.5% in June.

The state's job count dropped 30,800 in July with most of the losses occurring in Local Government Education Services (-31,700) as state and local schools completed the school year. Other industries reporting notable losses were Retail Trade (-900), Manufacturing (-1,500), and Construction (-2,500). Partially offsetting the losses were gains in Leisure and Hospitality (+4,600), and Financial Activities (+700). The overall job count was nearly 77,300 below the year-ago level.

"The decrease in the July unemployment rate is welcome news for South Carolina. However, the data trends indicate that people in South Carolina left the labor force for the second month in a row. There is concern that people are becoming more discouraged over job prospects in the short term and are giving up the job search," said Roosevelt T. Halley, Executive Director of the commission.



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-09

| Industry                            | July<br>2009     | June<br>2009     | July<br>2008     | Net Change From<br>Month<br>Ago | Year<br>Ago    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Nonag. Employment</b>      | <b>1,839,100</b> | <b>1,869,900</b> | <b>1,916,400</b> | <b>-30,800</b>                  | <b>-77,300</b> |
| Natural Resources and Mining        | 4,100            | 4,200            | 4,300            | -100                            | -200           |
| Construction                        | 101,200          | 103,700          | 114,900          | -2,500                          | -13,700        |
| Manufacturing                       | 213,800          | 215,300          | 243,700          | -1,500                          | -29,900        |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 356,000          | 357,500          | 374,600          | -1,500                          | -18,600        |
| Information                         | 30,000           | 30,000           | 29,100           | 0                               | 900            |
| Financial Activities                | 104,500          | 103,800          | 108,300          | 700                             | -3,800         |
| Professional and Business Services  | 216,800          | 216,300          | 220,100          | 500                             | -3,300         |
| Educational and Health Services     | 207,900          | 208,000          | 206,100          | -100                            | 1,800          |
| Leisure and Hospitality             | 219,900          | 215,300          | 230,100          | 4,600                           | -10,200        |
| Government                          | 311,300          | 343,000          | 313,400          | -31,700                         | -2,100         |

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY**

**Unemployment Rate**

| Rank | County       | Unemployment Rate |              |        |
|------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|
|      |              | July<br>2009      | June<br>2009 | Change |
| 1    | Allendale    | 22.5              | 23.2         | -0.7   |
| 2    | Marlboro     | 21.7              | 21.0         | 0.7    |
| 3    | Chester      | 21.4              | 22.4         | -1.0   |
| 4    | Marion       | 21.3              | 21.5         | -0.2   |
| 5    | Union        | 21.1              | 21.8         | -0.7   |
| 6    | Barnwell     | 19.0              | 19.5         | -0.5   |
|      | Lancaster    | 19.0              | 19.9         | -0.9   |
| 8    | Bamberg      | 18.4              | 18.3         | 0.1    |
| 9    | Chesterfield | 18.2              | 19.0         | -0.8   |
| 10   | Dillon       | 17.8              | 17.7         | 0.1    |
| 11   | Orangeburg   | 17.2              | 17.4         | -0.2   |
| 12   | Cherokee     | 17.0              | 18.1         | -1.1   |
| 13   | Hampton      | 16.4              | 16.7         | -0.3   |
| 14   | Williamsburg | 16.1              | 16.3         | -0.2   |
| 15   | Clarendon    | 16.0              | 16.4         | -0.4   |
| 16   | McCormick    | 15.9              | 17.8         | -1.9   |
| 17   | Lee          | 15.7              | 16.2         | -0.5   |
| 18   | Abbeville    | 15.2              | 15.8         | -0.6   |
|      | York         | 15.2              | 15.9         | -0.7   |
| 20   | Oconee       | 15.1              | 15.1         | 0.0    |
| 21   | Colleton     | 14.4              | 14.8         | -0.4   |
| 22   | Darlington   | 13.7              | 14.3         | -0.6   |
|      | Fairfield    | 13.7              | 14.7         | -1.0   |
|      | Greenwood    | 13.7              | 14.2         | -0.5   |
| 25   | Sumter       | 13.6              | 14.2         | -0.6   |
| 26   | Spartanburg  | 12.7              | 13.1         | -0.4   |
| 27   | Anderson     | 12.5              | 13.1         | -0.6   |
| 28   | Laurens      | 12.5              | 12.2         | 0.3    |
| 29   | Calhoun      | 12.2              | 12.6         | -0.4   |
|      | Georgetown   | 12.2              | 12.1         | 0.1    |
|      | Newberry     | 12.2              | 12.9         | -0.7   |
| 32   | Florence     | 11.7              | 12.0         | -0.3   |
| 33   | Jasper       | 11.2              | 11.3         | -0.1   |
| 34   | Berkeley     | 10.9              | 11.3         | -0.4   |
| 35   | Pickens      | 10.8              | 11.1         | -0.3   |
| 36   | Kershaw      | 10.6              | 11.6         | -1.0   |
| 37   | Edgefield    | 10.5              | 11.3         | -0.8   |
| 38   | Horry        | 10.4              | 11.3         | -0.9   |
| 39   | Dorchester   | 10.1              | 10.8         | -0.7   |
|      | Greenville   | 10.1              | 10.7         | -0.6   |
| 41   | Aiken        | 10.0              | 10.8         | -0.8   |
| 42   | Richland     | 9.5               | 9.9          | -0.4   |
| 43   | Saluda       | 9.2               | 10.1         | -0.9   |
| 44   | Charleston   | 9.1               | 9.5          | -0.4   |
| 45   | Beaufort     | 9.0               | 9.1          | -0.1   |
| 46   | Lexington    | 8.2               | 8.6          | -0.4   |

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

July-09

| AREA:                    | LABOR FORCE    |                |                | UNEMPLOYMENT |              |              | % OF LABOR FORCE |             |            |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|------------|
|                          | July 2009      | June 2009      | July 2008      | July 2009    | June 2009    | July 2008    | July 2009        | June 2009   | July 2008  |
| ABBEVILLE                | 11,625         | 11,863         | 11,495         | 1,771        | 1,875        | 955          | 15.2             | 15.8        | 8.3        |
| AIKEN                    | 77,667         | 77,755         | 76,360         | 7,789        | 8,368        | 4,628        | 10.0             | 10.8        | 6.1        |
| ALLENDALE                | 3,351          | 3,519          | 3,339          | 753          | 815          | 585          | 22.5             | 23.2        | 17.5       |
| ANDERSON MSA             | 88,122         | 88,953         | 86,744         | 11,047       | 11,660       | 5,992        | 12.5             | 13.1        | 6.9        |
| BAMBERG                  | 6,295          | 6,436          | 6,296          | 1,157        | 1,176        | 795          | 18.4             | 18.3        | 12.6       |
| BARNWELL                 | 9,234          | 9,430          | 8,955          | 1,751        | 1,839        | 986          | 19.0             | 19.5        | 11.0       |
| BEAUFORT                 | 63,064         | 63,635         | 65,711         | 5,669        | 5,760        | 3,813        | 9.0              | 9.1         | 5.8        |
| BERKELEY                 | 83,361         | 82,962         | 82,167         | 9,074        | 9,358        | 5,413        | 10.9             | 11.3        | 6.6        |
| CALHOUN                  | 7,373          | 7,347          | 7,193          | 897          | 924          | 592          | 12.2             | 12.6        | 8.2        |
| CHARLESTON               | 183,504        | 182,515        | 182,734        | 16,717       | 17,260       | 10,409       | 9.1              | 9.5         | 5.7        |
| CHEROKEE                 | 25,926         | 26,584         | 25,321         | 4,402        | 4,818        | 2,299        | 17.0             | 18.1        | 9.1        |
| CHESTER                  | 15,783         | 16,211         | 15,178         | 3,373        | 3,631        | 1,879        | 21.4             | 22.4        | 12.4       |
| CHESTERFIELD             | 19,334         | 19,949         | 18,587         | 3,528        | 3,788        | 1,740        | 18.2             | 19.0        | 9.4        |
| CLARENDON                | 12,580         | 13,044         | 12,502         | 2,018        | 2,141        | 1,323        | 16.0             | 16.4        | 10.6       |
| COLLETON                 | 16,925         | 17,336         | 16,931         | 2,438        | 2,569        | 1,482        | 14.4             | 14.8        | 8.8        |
| DARLINGTON               | 32,725         | 33,645         | 31,218         | 4,472        | 4,808        | 2,709        | 13.7             | 14.3        | 8.7        |
| DILLON                   | 13,185         | 13,592         | 12,891         | 2,348        | 2,406        | 1,412        | 17.8             | 17.7        | 11.0       |
| DORCHESTER               | 66,433         | 66,349         | 65,530         | 6,722        | 7,186        | 3,836        | 10.1             | 10.8        | 5.9        |
| EDGEFIELD                | 11,378         | 11,393         | 11,192         | 1,198        | 1,284        | 742          | 10.5             | 11.3        | 6.6        |
| FAIRFIELD                | 11,812         | 11,856         | 11,799         | 1,620        | 1,748        | 1,410        | 13.7             | 14.7        | 12.0       |
| FLORENCE                 | 65,374         | 66,983         | 62,990         | 7,632        | 8,047        | 4,723        | 11.7             | 12.0        | 7.5        |
| GEORGETOWN               | 30,611         | 31,061         | 31,089         | 3,724        | 3,759        | 2,203        | 12.2             | 12.1        | 7.1        |
| GREENVILLE               | 232,411        | 232,043        | 228,006        | 23,398       | 24,744       | 13,055       | 10.1             | 10.7        | 5.7        |
| GREENWOOD                | 30,086         | 30,561         | 30,402         | 4,130        | 4,350        | 2,391        | 13.7             | 14.2        | 7.9        |
| HAMPTON                  | 7,777          | 8,035          | 7,716          | 1,278        | 1,343        | 760          | 16.4             | 16.7        | 9.8        |
| HORRY/MYR BCH MSA        | 138,064        | 138,396        | 141,212        | 14,393       | 15,578       | 8,472        | 10.4             | 11.3        | 6.0        |
| JASPER                   | 10,154         | 10,247         | 10,417         | 1,136        | 1,154        | 692          | 11.2             | 11.3        | 6.6        |
| KERSHAW                  | 31,431         | 31,506         | 30,668         | 3,335        | 3,642        | 2,029        | 10.6             | 11.6        | 6.6        |
| LANCASTER                | 29,793         | 30,447         | 29,437         | 5,670        | 6,061        | 3,549        | 19.0             | 19.9        | 12.1       |
| LAURENS                  | 35,139         | 34,754         | 34,142         | 4,387        | 4,254        | 2,516        | 12.5             | 12.2        | 7.4        |
| LEE                      | 8,386          | 8,737          | 8,131          | 1,313        | 1,415        | 807          | 15.7             | 16.2        | 9.9        |
| LEXINGTON                | 137,576        | 137,153        | 135,739        | 11,216       | 11,836       | 6,936        | 8.2              | 8.6         | 5.1        |
| MARION                   | 13,437         | 13,807         | 13,128         | 2,862        | 2,970        | 1,918        | 21.3             | 21.5        | 14.6       |
| MARLBORO                 | 12,096         | 12,450         | 11,538         | 2,621        | 2,614        | 1,468        | 21.7             | 21.0        | 12.7       |
| McCORMICK                | 3,388          | 3,527          | 3,414          | 537          | 629          | 369          | 15.9             | 17.8        | 10.8       |
| NEWBERRY                 | 18,530         | 19,221         | 18,606         | 2,260        | 2,474        | 1,411        | 12.2             | 12.9        | 7.6        |
| OCONEE                   | 31,341         | 31,644         | 30,615         | 4,739        | 4,763        | 2,306        | 15.1             | 15.1        | 7.5        |
| ORANGEBURG               | 40,869         | 41,765         | 40,849         | 7,029        | 7,283        | 4,676        | 17.2             | 17.4        | 11.4       |
| PICKENS                  | 61,427         | 61,126         | 60,131         | 6,626        | 6,775        | 3,773        | 10.8             | 11.1        | 6.3        |
| RICHLAND                 | 188,315        | 187,653        | 185,749        | 17,920       | 18,664       | 12,060       | 9.5              | 9.9         | 6.5        |
| SALUDA                   | 9,519          | 9,543          | 9,371          | 872          | 967          | 557          | 9.2              | 10.1        | 5.9        |
| SPARTANBURG MSA          | 141,654        | 142,832        | 137,378        | 17,968       | 18,673       | 10,153       | 12.7             | 13.1        | 7.4        |
| SUMTER MSA               | 43,858         | 45,097         | 43,141         | 5,973        | 6,413        | 3,801        | 13.6             | 14.2        | 8.8        |
| UNION                    | 12,462         | 12,751         | 11,733         | 2,624        | 2,781        | 1,315        | 21.1             | 21.8        | 11.2       |
| WILLIAMSBURG             | 15,728         | 16,194         | 15,666         | 2,529        | 2,632        | 1,696        | 16.1             | 16.3        | 10.8       |
| YORK                     | 109,272        | 110,594        | 106,826        | 16,571       | 17,572       | 7,938        | 15.2             | 15.9        | 7.4        |
| <b>Multi County MSAs</b> |                |                |                |              |              |              |                  |             |            |
| CHAS MSA                 | 333,298        | 331,827        | 330,431        | 32,513       | 33,805       | 19,658       | 9.8              | 10.2        | 5.9        |
| COLA MSA                 | 386,027        | 385,058        | 380,519        | 35,861       | 37,781       | 23,583       | 9.3              | 9.8         | 6.2        |
| FLORENCE MSA             | 98,099         | 100,628        | 94,208         | 12,104       | 12,855       | 7,432        | 12.3             | 12.8        | 7.9        |
| GRNV MSA                 | 328,977        | 327,923        | 322,280        | 34,411       | 35,773       | 19,345       | 10.5             | 10.9        | 6.0        |
| <b>South Carolina*</b>   | <b>2,185.6</b> | <b>2,195.4</b> | <b>2,154.8</b> | <b>258.5</b> | <b>266.2</b> | <b>149.2</b> | <b>11.8</b>      | <b>12.1</b> | <b>6.9</b> |

\* Seasonally Adjusted