

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



Released July 18, 2008

State Unemployment Drops, But Economy Still Struggles

South Carolina's unemployment rate dropped to 6.2% in June after reaching a year-to-date high of 6.5% in May, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. The state's labor force totaled 2,143,200, down 7,600 from the May level. The number of unemployed in the state declined 7,000 to 132,200 in June. The national unemployment rate held steady at 5.5% in June.

The number of non-farm jobs in South Carolina dropped 6,400 in June with the majority of the job losses occurring in Government and Construction. In the public sector, 3,500 jobs were cut in June as state and local schools released non-teaching staff for the summer recess. Construction lost another 3,200 jobs in June as the nationwide housing crisis continued its grip on the industry. Construction jobs are now running nearly 11% below the year-ago level. Professional and Business Services trimmed 1,700 jobs, mostly in temporary help businesses. Retail Trade was down 400 jobs in June, and Manufacturing reported 200 fewer workers during the month. On the plus side, Leisure and Hospitality posted a modest increase of 1,700 jobs, and Financial Activities and Other Services each saw gains of 900. The job count, at 1,970,900, was 4,500 higher than June of last year.

Despite the drop in the jobless rate, the South Carolina economy continues to struggle. With no end in sight to the housing slump and continuing increases in fuel prices, we can expect unemployment to remain at a high level for the foreseeable future.



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

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

June-08

Industry	JUNE 2008	MAY 2008	JUNE 2007	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,970,900	1,977,300	1,966,400	-6400	4,500
Natural Resources and Mining	4,400	4,500	4,600	-100	-200
Construction	114,100	117,300	128,000	-3,200	-13,900
Manufacturing	246,700	246,900	251,700	-200	-5,000
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	378,700	378,800	379,200	-100	-500
Information	27,800	27,700	28,300	100	-500
Financial Activities	108,700	107,800	107,200	900	1,500
Professional and Business Services	229,300	231,000	227,700	-1,700	1,600
Educational and Health Services	205,500	206,700	199,600	-1,200	5,900
Leisure and Hospitality	233,900	232,200	228,500	1,700	5,400
Government	345,300	348,800	336,800	-3,500	8,500

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		June 2008	May 2008	Change
1	ALLENDALE	14.6	14.3	0.3
2	MARION	12.2	12.0	0.2
3	UNION	11.3	10.4	0.9
4	BAMBERG	10.9	10.3	0.6
5	CHESTER	10.8	11.0	-0.2
	MARLBORO	10.8	10.8	0.0
7	FAIRFIELD	10.6	10.5	0.1
8	ORANGEBURG	10.3	8.9	1.4
9	BARNWELL	10.1	9.8	0.3
	LANCASTER	10.1	10.2	-0.1
11	MCCORMICK	10.0	10.0	0.0
12	DILLON	9.7	9.3	0.4
	WILLIAMSBURG	9.7	9.4	0.3
14	LEE	9.4	9.1	0.3
15	CLARENDON	9.2	9.2	0.0
16	HAMPTON	8.5	8.2	0.3
17	CHEROKEE	8.3	8.1	0.2
	CHESTERFIELD	8.3	7.6	0.7
19	DARLINGTON	8.2	7.3	0.9
20	ABBEVILLE	8.0	7.6	0.4
21	SUMTER	7.9	7.8	0.1
22	COLLETON	7.8	7.4	0.4
23	NEWBERRY	7.3	6.8	0.5
24	CALHOUN	7.1	6.2	0.9
	GREENWOOD	7.1	6.9	0.2
26	SPARTANBURG	7.0	6.2	0.8
27	GEORGETOWN	6.9	6.7	0.2
	OCONEE	6.9	6.6	0.3
29	FLORENCE	6.7	6.3	0.4
30	ANDERSON	6.6	6.0	0.6
31	LAURENS	6.5	6.2	0.3
32	YORK	6.4	6.7	-0.3
33	KERSHAW	6.3	6.2	0.1
34	EDGEFIELD	6.2	6.2	0.0
35	RICHLAND	6.1	5.7	0.4
36	BERKELEY	6.0	5.4	0.6
37	PICKENS	5.9	5.5	0.4
38	JASPER	5.7	5.0	0.7
39	HORRY	5.6	5.5	0.1
40	AIKEN	5.4	5.2	0.2
41	DORCHESTER	5.3	4.9	0.4
	SALUDA	5.3	5.3	0.0
43	CHARLESTON	5.2	4.5	0.7
	GREENVILLE	5.2	4.9	0.3
45	BEAUFORT	5.1	4.3	0.8
46	LEXINGTON	4.7	4.3	0.4

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

June-08

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	June 2008	May 2008	June 2007	June 2008	May 2008	June 2007	June 2008	May 2008	June 2007
ABBEVILLE	11,374	11,269	11,593	913	860	981	8.0	7.6	8.5
AIKEN	75,914	75,474	76,489	4,078	3,946	4,702	5.4	5.2	6.1
ALLENDALE	3,718	3,671	3,639	541	526	390	14.6	14.3	10.7
ANDERSON MSA	85,735	85,180	85,636	5,697	5,151	5,313	6.6	6.0	6.2
BAMBERG	6,331	6,233	6,371	693	639	612	10.9	10.3	9.6
BARNWELL	8,919	8,838	8,996	898	870	860	10.1	9.8	9.6
BEAUFORT	66,495	65,538	67,307	3,377	2,823	2,952	5.1	4.3	4.4
BERKELEY	77,958	76,818	76,770	4,709	4,158	3,772	6.0	5.4	4.9
CALHOUN	7,264	7,163	7,216	517	441	448	7.1	6.2	6.2
CHARLESTON	180,362	177,654	178,594	9,354	8,020	8,172	5.2	4.5	4.6
CHEROKEE	25,486	25,299	25,491	2,123	2,049	1,890	8.3	8.1	7.4
CHESTER	15,614	15,537	15,754	1,694	1,707	1,780	10.8	11.0	11.3
CHESTERFIELD	18,678	18,387	18,850	1,549	1,397	1,541	8.3	7.6	8.2
CLARENDON	12,865	12,756	13,053	1,183	1,175	1,124	9.2	9.2	8.6
COLLETON	16,994	16,762	17,018	1,332	1,237	1,104	7.8	7.4	6.5
DARLINGTON	32,658	32,148	32,016	2,662	2,346	2,170	8.2	7.3	6.8
DILLON	13,335	13,169	13,462	1,290	1,228	1,195	9.7	9.3	8.9
DORCHESTER	64,337	63,553	63,611	3,394	3,100	2,877	5.3	4.9	4.5
EDGEFIELD	11,114	11,067	11,161	685	683	739	6.2	6.2	6.6
FAIRFIELD	11,916	11,860	11,769	1,259	1,243	1,080	10.6	10.5	9.2
FLORENCE	64,737	64,001	64,058	4,356	4,011	3,979	6.7	6.3	6.2
GEORGETOWN	30,272	29,874	30,323	2,090	1,998	1,824	6.9	6.7	6.0
GREENVILLE	226,044	224,277	222,266	11,768	11,057	10,971	5.2	4.9	4.9
GREENWOOD	30,970	30,732	31,489	2,187	2,107	2,282	7.1	6.9	7.2
HAMPTON	8,087	7,986	8,077	690	655	530	8.5	8.2	6.6
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	139,718	136,730	136,323	7,830	7,530	6,009	5.6	5.5	4.4
JASPER	10,834	10,683	10,926	617	531	509	5.7	5.0	4.7
KERSHAW	30,365	30,218	30,227	1,912	1,872	1,688	6.3	6.2	5.6
LANCASTER	29,999	29,867	29,893	3,015	3,045	2,775	10.1	10.2	9.3
LAURENS	35,003	34,736	34,766	2,271	2,165	2,489	6.5	6.2	7.2
LEE	8,263	8,162	8,359	773	742	726	9.4	9.1	8.7
LEXINGTON	134,188	133,075	133,885	6,367	5,738	5,678	4.7	4.3	4.2
McCORMICK	3,539	3,516	3,618	355	352	378	10.0	10.0	10.4
MARION	13,008	12,843	13,105	1,590	1,547	1,564	12.2	12.0	11.9
MARLBORO	11,829	11,738	12,335	1,276	1,272	1,556	10.8	10.8	12.6
NEWBERRY	18,254	17,981	18,276	1,337	1,214	1,103	7.3	6.8	6.0
OCONEE	30,376	30,081	30,795	2,101	1,977	2,242	6.9	6.6	7.3
ORANGEBURG	41,601	40,695	41,510	4,285	3,635	3,508	10.3	8.9	8.5
PICKENS	60,444	59,900	59,164	3,545	3,282	3,057	5.9	5.5	5.2
RICHLAND	181,093	179,564	180,524	11,137	10,251	10,055	6.1	5.7	5.6
SALUDA	9,514	9,474	9,533	507	501	498	5.3	5.3	5.2
SPARTANBURG MSA	135,988	134,475	134,210	9,475	8,275	8,311	7.0	6.2	6.2
SUMTER MSA	45,444	45,245	46,234	3,602	3,549	3,354	7.9	7.8	7.3
UNION	11,863	11,684	11,724	1,346	1,219	1,103	11.3	10.4	9.4
WILLIAMSBURG	15,722	15,510	15,816	1,521	1,456	1,422	9.7	9.4	9.0
YORK	107,696	107,256	105,378	6,860	7,170	6,391	6.4	6.7	6.1
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	322,657	318,025	318,975	17,457	15,278	14,821	5.4	4.8	4.6
COLA MSA	374,341	371,355	373,154	21,699	20,047	19,447	5.8	5.4	5.2
FLORENCE MSA	97,395	96,149	96,074	7,018	6,357	6,149	7.2	6.6	6.4
GRNV MSA	321,490	318,914	316,195	17,583	16,505	16,517	5.5	5.2	5.2
South Carolina*	2,143.2	2,150.9	2,133.8	132.2	139.2	122.1	6.2	6.5	5.7

* Seasonally Adjusted