

## WORKFORCE TRENDS

# Newsline



Released: June 19, 2009

### SC Unemployment Rate Reaches 12.1%

South Carolina's unemployment rate rose sharply in May, jumping 0.7 of a percent to a record high of 12.1%, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. The April figure was revised downward one-tenth to 11.4%. The state's labor force rose 7,542 to 2,205,961 with all of the gain occurring in the unemployed, which rose nearly 16,000 to 266,196. The nation's unemployment rate also rose sharply in May from 8.9% in April to 9.4%.

Despite the rise in joblessness, nonfarm employment in the state rose for the third month in a row in May adding 11,800 jobs. Leisure and Hospitality led the gains with an increase of 7,100 jobs reflecting growing tourist activity. Other industries recording notable gains were Financial Activities (+1,700), Retail Trade (+1,400), and Education and Health Services (+1,100). Construction jobs (+1,200) rose for the first time since July 2008 as Specialty Trade Contractors added workers for remodeling and repair jobs. On the downside, manufacturers continued to shed jobs dropping another 2,200 in May. Manufacturing has lost 29,000 positions in the last year. The overall job count remained well below (-90,300) the year-ago level.

"The recent increases in seasonal jobs were welcome and beneficial for South Carolina," stated Roosevelt T. Halley, Executive Director of the Commission. He cautioned, however, "the seasonal increases have been lower than recent historic levels, and manufacturing jobs continue to decline." Halley further stated that "the decline in manufacturing does not bode well for the state's chances of an economic recovery in the short-term."



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

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**WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT**

May-09

Industry	May 2009	April 2009	May 2008	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
<b>Total Nonag. Employment</b>	<b>1,873,200</b>	<b>1,861,400</b>	<b>1,963,500</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>-90,300</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	4,200	4,200	4,400	0	-200
Construction	104,200	103,000	114,300	1,200	-10,100
Manufacturing	216,700	218,900	245,700	-2,200	-29,000
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	360,800	358,000	374,800	2,800	-14,000
Information	29,800	29,500	28,800	300	1,000
Financial Activities	104,000	102,300	106,600	1,700	-2,600
Professional and Business Services	211,800	211,900	226,700	-100	-14,900
Educational and Health Services	208,900	207,800	207,400	1,100	1,500
Leisure and Hospitality	213,900	206,800	229,300	7,100	-15,400
Government	347,000	347,200	353,000	-200	-6,000

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY**

**Unemployment Rate**

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		May 2009	April 2009	Change
1	Allendale	22.1	21.5	0.6
2	Marion	22.0	20.9	1.1
3	Chester	21.4	21.2	0.2
	Union	21.4	20.4	1.0
5	Marlboro	19.8	21.4	-1.6
6	Lancaster	18.5	18.8	-0.3
7	McCormick	17.6	16.3	1.3
8	Cherokee	17.3	16.8	0.5
9	Bamberg	17.2	15.8	1.4
	Barnwell	17.2	16.2	1.0
11	Chesterfield	17.1	17.0	0.1
12	Dillon	16.8	16.7	0.1
13	Clarendon	16.7	16.2	0.5
14	Hampton	16.6	15.7	0.9
15	Orangeburg	16.4	14.9	1.5
16	Lee	16.0	15.8	0.2
17	Williamsburg	15.7	14.9	0.8
18	Abbeville	15.1	14.3	0.8
19	Oconee	14.5	13.9	0.6
20	Colleton	14.3	13.4	0.9
	York	14.3	14.3	0.0
22	Greenwood	14.0	13.5	0.5
23	Darlington	13.7	12.5	1.2
	Fairfield	13.7	13.3	0.4
	Sumter	13.7	13.5	0.2
26	Anderson	12.5	11.5	1.0
27	Spartanburg	12.3	11.5	0.8
28	Georgetown	12.0	11.5	0.5
	Newberry	12.0	11.4	0.6
30	Calhoun	11.5	10.5	1.0
	Florence	11.5	10.9	0.6
32	Horry	11.4	11.2	0.2
	Laurens	11.4	10.7	0.7
34	Kershaw	11.2	10.7	0.5
35	Edgefield	10.7	10.1	0.6
	Jasper	10.7	9.9	0.8
37	Berkeley	10.6	9.9	0.7
38	Dorchester	10.2	9.4	0.8
	Greenville	10.2	9.4	0.8
	Pickens	10.2	9.5	0.7
41	Aiken	10.1	9.4	0.7
42	Saluda	9.6	8.8	0.8
43	Richland	9.3	8.4	0.9
44	Charleston	8.6	7.8	0.8
45	Beaufort	8.5	8.4	0.1
46	Lexington	8.1	7.5	0.6

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

**May-09**

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	May	April	May	May	April	May	May	April	May
	2009	2009	2008	2009	2009	2008	2009	2009	2008
ABBEVILLE	11,758	11,635	11,415	1,772	1,664	823	15.1	14.3	7.2
AIKEN	77,533	77,450	75,203	7,850	7,291	3,820	10.1	9.4	5.1
ALLENDALE	3,388	3,342	3,289	750	719	506	22.1	21.5	15.4
ANDERSON MSA	89,248	88,632	85,723	11,135	10,211	4,968	12.5	11.5	5.8
BAMBERG	6,289	6,167	6,291	1,082	974	613	17.2	15.8	9.7
BARNWELL	9,131	9,017	8,797	1,568	1,465	834	17.2	16.2	9.5
BEAUFORT	63,377	63,141	64,476	5,387	5,295	2,748	8.5	8.4	4.3
BERKELEY	82,296	81,396	79,709	8,759	8,068	4,172	10.6	9.9	5.2
CALHOUN	7,253	7,179	6,946	836	756	423	11.5	10.5	6.1
CHARLESTON	180,678	178,574	177,425	15,575	13,941	7,832	8.6	7.8	4.4
CHEROKEE	26,439	26,226	25,575	4,583	4,404	1,978	17.3	16.8	7.7
CHESTER	16,032	15,978	15,157	3,430	3,392	1,576	21.4	21.2	10.4
CHESTERFIELD	19,380	19,280	18,470	3,323	3,281	1,340	17.1	17.0	7.3
CLARENDON	12,766	12,616	12,454	2,133	2,044	1,125	16.7	16.2	9.0
COLLETON	17,079	16,812	16,579	2,445	2,250	1,184	14.3	13.4	7.1
DARLINGTON	33,225	32,777	31,249	4,556	4,110	2,260	13.7	12.5	7.2
DILLON	13,237	13,173	12,847	2,218	2,194	1,181	16.8	16.7	9.2
DORCHESTER	65,810	65,072	63,733	6,702	6,132	3,017	10.2	9.4	4.7
EDGEFIELD	11,370	11,369	11,063	1,218	1,148	663	10.7	10.1	6.0
FAIRFIELD	11,700	11,664	11,461	1,601	1,555	1,195	13.7	13.3	10.4
FLORENCE	66,206	65,791	63,104	7,613	7,201	3,857	11.5	10.9	6.1
GEORGETOWN	30,703	30,276	30,985	3,689	3,476	1,913	12.0	11.5	6.2
GREENVILLE	231,831	230,544	225,841	23,576	21,567	10,742	10.2	9.4	4.8
GREENWOOD	30,537	30,310	30,601	4,260	4,086	2,028	14.0	13.5	6.6
HAMPTON	7,913	7,790	7,690	1,313	1,224	629	16.6	15.7	8.2
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	135,297	132,308	135,512	15,434	14,875	7,355	11.4	11.2	5.4
JASPER	10,197	10,092	10,208	1,086	1,004	510	10.7	9.9	5.0
KERSHAW	31,367	31,198	30,103	3,528	3,332	1,804	11.2	10.7	6.0
LANCASTER	30,042	30,110	29,460	5,570	5,672	3,063	18.5	18.8	10.4
LAURENS	34,591	34,450	33,724	3,950	3,703	2,076	11.4	10.7	6.2
LEE	8,461	8,407	8,073	1,350	1,326	708	16.0	15.8	8.8
LEXINGTON	136,227	135,521	132,806	11,024	10,195	5,532	8.1	7.5	4.2
MARION	13,682	13,404	12,791	3,008	2,805	1,484	22.0	20.9	11.6
MARLBORO	12,078	12,291	11,459	2,389	2,626	1,224	19.8	21.4	10.7
McCORMICK	3,502	3,446	3,438	617	563	337	17.6	16.3	9.8
NEWBERRY	18,721	18,515	18,553	2,252	2,110	1,166	12.0	11.4	6.3
OCONEE	31,404	31,164	30,518	4,541	4,338	1,903	14.5	13.9	6.2
ORANGEBURG	40,949	40,141	41,086	6,714	5,994	3,477	16.4	14.9	8.5
PICKENS	60,834	60,526	59,564	6,232	5,735	3,168	10.2	9.5	5.3
RICHLAND	186,128	184,426	181,572	17,293	15,426	9,944	9.3	8.4	5.5
SALUDA	9,479	9,409	9,189	911	832	479	9.6	8.8	5.2
SPARTANBURG MSA	142,873	141,639	137,065	17,566	16,297	8,020	12.3	11.5	5.9
SUMTER MSA	42,943	42,709	43,491	5,898	5,773	3,416	13.7	13.5	7.9
UNION	12,696	12,502	11,704	2,722	2,547	1,171	21.4	20.4	10.0
WILLIAMSBURG	15,837	15,572	15,288	2,491	2,314	1,402	15.7	14.9	9.2
YORK	109,986	110,017	107,075	15,702	15,751	6,988	14.3	14.3	6.5
<b>Multi County MSAs</b>									
CHAS MSA	328,785	325,042	320,866	31,036	28,141	15,021	9.4	8.7	4.7
COLA MSA	382,154	379,397	372,077	35,193	32,097	19,377	9.2	8.5	5.2
FLORENCE MSA	99,431	98,568	94,353	12,169	11,311	6,117	12.2	11.5	6.5
GRNV MSA	327,257	325,520	319,130	33,759	31,005	15,987	10.3	9.5	5.0
<b>South Carolina*</b>	<b>2,206.0</b>	<b>2,198.4</b>	<b>2,141.1</b>	<b>266.2</b>	<b>250.2</b>	<b>135.7</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>6.3</b>

\* Seasonally Adjusted