

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



Released December 19, 2008

Unemployment in SC Climbs to 8.4% in November

South Carolina's unemployment rate continued to soar in November reaching 8.4%, the state Employment Security Commission reported today. This is half a point above the revised rate of 7.9% in October and the highest rate since September 1983. The number of unemployed rose 11,500 to 182,900, while the state's labor force was little changed at 2,171,400. Roosevelt T. Halley, Executive Director of the Commission, said "This rise in joblessness was expected as layoffs and business closures continue to mount in the wake of the national economic crisis." The national unemployment rate rose from 6.5% in October to 6.7% in November.

The nonfarm job count in the state plummeted 11,900 over the month to 1,929,600. This brought the job total to nearly 43,000 below the year-ago total. Leisure and Hospitality cut 7,800 positions in November, with the bulk of the cuts in Accommodation and Food Services (-5,800). Cutbacks in temporary help agencies forced Professional and Business Services downward by 4,200. Construction continued its downward spiral, reducing payrolls by 2,500. Manufacturers laid off 1,200 workers during November. On the plus side, Government added 2,700 jobs as state and local schools continued to add support staff for the fall term. Retailers added only 1,300 workers in preparation for the holiday season. This is far below the number typically hired during this time of year.

South Carolina has been one of the hardest-hit states in terms of unemployment during the recessionary period of the past year. The Employment Security Commission is currently paying Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits to more than 60,000 people each week. The amount of benefits being paid each week is exceeding \$12 million. Total UI benefits paid out for 2008 will be close to \$500 million. With continuing layoffs among the state's manufacturers, retailers and service-providing industries, unemployment will remain high into the foreseeable future, with rates likely reaching double digits over the next few months.



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

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
November-08

Industry	NOVEMBER 2008	OCTOBER 2008	NOVEMBER 2007	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,929,600	1,941,500	1,972,400	-11,900	-42,800
Natural Resources and Mining	4,300	4,400	4,500	-100	-200
Construction	107,700	110,200	129,700	-2,500	-22,000
Manufacturing	238,800	240,000	248,300	-1,200	-9,500
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	372,900	371,800	384,100	1,100	-11,200
Information	27,300	27,300	27,800	0	-500
Financial Activities	107,500	107,500	107,300	0	200
Professional and Business Services	221,200	225,400	230,200	-4,200	-9,000
Educational and Health Services	208,900	208,500	204,000	400	4,900
Leisure and Hospitality	210,400	218,200	216,800	-7,800	-6,400
Government	356,100	353,400	345,900	2,700	10,200

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		November 2008	October 2008	Change
1	Allendale	17.8	16.9	0.9
2	Marion	17.1	15.8	1.3
3	Bamberg	14.4	13.7	0.7
	Barnwell	14.4	12.4	2.0
5	Marlboro	14.2	15.3	-1.1
6	Chester	13.5	12.8	0.7
7	Union	12.9	12.2	0.7
8	Williamsburg	12.7	11.4	1.3
9	Orangeburg	12.6	12.5	0.1
10	Lancaster	12.2	12.1	0.1
11	Dillon	12.0	11.9	0.1
12	Clarendon	11.9	11.3	0.6
	Fairfield	11.9	11.2	0.7
	McCormick	11.9	12.0	-0.1
15	Cherokee	11.6	11.3	0.3
16	Chesterfield	11.3	10.9	0.4
17	Lee	10.9	11.6	-0.7
18	Hampton	10.8	10.1	0.7
19	Colleton	10.5	9.9	0.6
20	Darlington	10.3	9.4	0.9
21	Georgetown	10.2	8.7	1.5
22	Sumter	9.9	9.5	0.4
23	Abbeville	9.7	9.2	0.5
24	Horry	9.5	8.4	1.1
	Oconee	9.5	9.1	0.4
26	Greenwood	9.4	9.0	0.4
27	Calhoun	9.0	9.4	-0.4
28	Newberry	8.9	8.6	0.3
29	Spartanburg	8.4	7.9	0.5
30	Laurens	8.3	7.7	0.6
31	York	8.2	7.7	0.5
32	Anderson	8.1	7.8	0.3
	Florence	8.1	8.1	0.0
34	Edgefield	8.0	8.2	-0.2
35	Kershaw	7.9	8.0	-0.1
36	Berkeley	7.5	7.1	0.4
37	Pickens	7.3	7.0	0.3
	Saluda	7.3	7.2	0.1
39	Richland	7.2	7.0	0.2
40	Aiken	7.1	6.9	0.2
	Jasper	7.1	6.9	0.2
42	Dorchester	7.0	6.7	0.3
43	Greenville	6.9	6.5	0.4
44	Charleston	6.4	6.1	0.3
45	Beaufort	6.3	6.0	0.3
46	Lexington	6.0	5.8	0.2

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

November-08

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	November 2008	October 2008	November 2007	November 2008	October 2008	November 2007	November 2008	October 2008	November 2007
ABBEVILLE	11,185	11,269	11,404	1,082	1,042	912	9.7	9.2	8.0
AIKEN	74,765	75,029	74,138	5,299	5,191	3,505	7.1	6.9	4.7
ALLENDALE	3,737	3,737	3,573	665	632	369	17.8	16.9	10.3
ANDERSON MSA	85,439	85,796	84,860	6,929	6,669	5,026	8.1	7.8	5.9
BAMBERG	6,352	6,357	6,275	917	873	601	14.4	13.7	9.6
BARNWELL	9,028	8,914	8,830	1,304	1,102	800	14.4	12.4	9.1
BEAUFORT	64,475	65,275	66,329	4,046	3,913	2,978	6.3	6.0	4.5
BERKELEY	76,488	76,828	75,293	5,740	5,418	3,753	7.5	7.1	5.0
CALHOUN	7,311	7,349	7,180	656	694	453	9.0	9.4	6.3
CHARLESTON	176,372	177,522	174,827	11,203	10,808	7,809	6.4	6.1	4.5
CHEROKEE	25,585	25,814	25,112	2,979	2,918	1,765	11.6	11.3	7.0
CHESTER	15,649	15,682	15,664	2,108	2,005	1,781	13.5	12.8	11.4
CHESTERFIELD	18,728	18,841	18,553	2,114	2,056	1,419	11.3	10.9	7.6
CLARENDON	12,703	12,794	12,863	1,512	1,443	1,148	11.9	11.3	8.9
COLLETON	16,836	16,941	16,775	1,771	1,679	1,110	10.5	9.9	6.6
DARLINGTON	33,163	32,636	31,790	3,418	3,066	2,081	10.3	9.4	6.5
DILLON	13,267	13,343	13,343	1,591	1,594	1,255	12.0	11.9	9.4
DORCHESTER	63,302	63,680	62,370	4,440	4,268	2,850	7.0	6.7	4.6
EDGEFIELD	10,966	11,040	10,893	881	902	639	8.0	8.2	5.9
FAIRFIELD	11,924	11,841	11,562	1,413	1,329	937	11.9	11.2	8.1
FLORENCE	65,152	64,768	63,761	5,276	5,243	3,957	8.1	8.1	6.2
GEORGETOWN	29,683	29,722	29,720	3,022	2,582	1,911	10.2	8.7	6.4
GREENVILLE	225,745	226,316	221,219	15,615	14,811	10,609	6.9	6.5	4.8
GREENWOOD	30,521	30,789	30,986	2,883	2,761	2,138	9.4	9.0	6.9
HAMPTON	8,004	8,033	8,037	868	815	588	10.8	10.1	7.3
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	129,823	132,223	128,876	12,361	11,050	7,157	9.5	8.4	5.6
JASPER	10,525	10,665	10,713	743	732	458	7.1	6.9	4.3
KERSHAW	30,464	30,519	30,045	2,402	2,454	1,677	7.9	8.0	5.6
LANCASTER	29,806	30,095	30,040	3,627	3,627	3,128	12.2	12.1	10.4
LAURENS	35,011	35,011	34,770	2,912	2,702	2,598	8.3	7.7	7.5
LEE	8,181	8,284	8,206	888	960	680	10.9	11.6	8.3
LEXINGTON	134,086	133,843	133,185	8,022	7,764	5,746	6.0	5.8	4.3
McCORMICK	3,483	3,519	3,539	414	422	346	11.9	12.0	9.8
MARION	13,207	13,161	12,851	2,257	2,080	1,516	17.1	15.8	11.8
MARLBORO	12,004	12,247	12,108	1,706	1,878	1,393	14.2	15.3	11.5
NEWBERRY	18,087	18,138	18,063	1,618	1,563	1,041	8.9	8.6	5.8
OCONEE	30,198	30,420	30,181	2,860	2,766	1,932	9.5	9.1	6.4
ORANGEBURG	41,263	41,534	40,925	5,208	5,180	3,434	12.6	12.5	8.4
PICKENS	60,224	60,420	59,268	4,426	4,257	3,343	7.3	7.0	5.6
RICHLAND	180,581	180,243	179,148	12,961	12,603	9,700	7.2	7.0	5.4
SALUDA	9,585	9,571	9,438	701	686	457	7.3	7.2	4.8
SPARTANBURG MSA	136,552	137,287	132,730	11,433	10,850	7,767	8.4	7.9	5.9
SUMTER MSA	43,633	44,395	45,020	4,311	4,226	3,413	9.9	9.5	7.6
UNION	11,737	11,779	11,653	1,516	1,436	1,136	12.9	12.2	9.7
WILLIAMSBURG	15,667	15,610	15,576	1,995	1,785	1,408	12.7	11.4	9.0
YORK	108,027	108,183	104,626	8,906	8,286	5,610	8.2	7.7	5.4
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	316,162	318,029	312,490	21,383	20,494	14,412	6.8	6.4	4.6
COLA MSA	373,948	373,367	370,558	26,154	25,530	18,970	7.0	6.8	5.1
FLORENCE MSA	98,315	97,404	95,551	8,694	8,309	6,038	8.8	8.5	6.3
GRNV MSA	320,979	321,747	315,257	22,953	21,770	16,550	7.2	6.8	5.2
South Carolina*	2,171.4	2,169.8	2,148.2	182.9	171.4	130.4	8.4	7.9	6.1

* Seasonally Adjusted