

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



Released November 21, 2008

Unemployment in SC Reaches 8.0%

South Carolina's unemployment rate jumped sharply in October to 8.0%, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. This is seven-tenths of a percent above the September rate of 7.3% and is the highest rate since December 1983. According to Roosevelt T. Halley, Executive Director of the Commission, "This increase appears to be consistent with the overall worsening of the nation's economy as a result of the turmoil in the housing and financial markets." The state's labor force totaled 2,172,392 in October, up 13,688 over the September level. The number of unemployed rose 16,549 to 173,467 in October. The national unemployment rate also rose sharply in October, soaring to 6.5% from the September figure of 6.1%.

The number of jobs in South Carolina showed little change over the month, registering a modest increase of 4,100. Unexpected gains were recorded in Retail Trade (+2,300) and Construction (+800); however, these gains are likely temporary as these industries are expected to mirror national trends over the next few months and fall below normal seasonal levels. Leisure and Hospitality showed a seasonal loss of 3,500 jobs and manufacturers reduced their payrolls by 1,400. Professional and Business Services added 2,700 jobs in October, mostly in temporary help agencies. Overall, nonfarm jobs in October were nearly 21,000 below the year-ago level.



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

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
October-08

Industry	OCTOBER 2008	SEPTEMBER 2008	OCTOBER 2007	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,949,100	1,945,000	1,970,000	4,100	-20,900
Natural Resources and Mining	4,400	4,400	4,500	0	-100
Construction	112,100	111,300	130,700	800	-18,600
Manufacturing	240,100	241,500	248,500	-1,400	-8,400
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	373,200	370,500	378,800	2,700	-5,600
Information	27,500	27,600	28,000	-100	-500
Financial Activities	107,800	108,400	106,500	-600	1,300
Professional and Business Services	226,300	223,600	231,900	2,700	-5,600
Educational and Health Services	209,200	209,100	204,600	100	4,600
Leisure and Hospitality	220,000	223,500	219,400	-3,500	600
Government	353,400	351,000	343,200	2,400	10,200

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		October 2008	September 2008	Change
1	Allendale	17.0	16.9	0.1
2	Marion	15.8	15.0	0.8
3	Marlboro	15.4	13.8	1.6
4	Bamberg	13.8	13.6	0.2
5	Chester	12.8	12.0	0.8
6	Orangeburg	12.5	12.5	0.0
7	Barnwell	12.4	12.7	-0.3
8	Union	12.3	11.9	0.4
9	Lancaster	12.1	11.9	0.2
10	Dillon	12.0	11.2	0.8
	McCormick	12.0	10.9	1.1
12	Lee	11.7	9.8	1.9
13	Williamsburg	11.5	10.8	0.7
14	Cherokee	11.4	9.8	1.6
	Fairfield	11.4	11.7	-0.3
16	Clarendon	11.3	10.8	0.5
17	Chesterfield	11.0	10.5	0.5
18	Hampton	10.2	9.6	0.6
19	Colleton	10.0	9.7	0.3
20	Calhoun	9.5	9.1	0.4
	Darlington	9.5	8.9	0.6
	Sumter	9.5	8.8	0.7
23	Abbeville	9.3	8.7	0.6
24	Oconee	9.1	7.9	1.2
25	Greenwood	9.0	8.4	0.6
26	Georgetown	8.7	7.7	1.0
	Newberry	8.7	8.2	0.5
28	Horry	8.4	6.9	1.5
29	Edgefield	8.3	7.4	0.9
30	Florence	8.2	7.5	0.7
	Kershaw	8.2	6.9	1.3
32	Spartanburg	8.0	7.3	0.7
33	Anderson	7.9	7.1	0.8
34	Laurens	7.8	7.4	0.4
	York	7.8	8.0	-0.2
36	Saluda	7.3	6.3	1.0
37	Berkeley	7.1	6.6	0.5
	Pickens	7.1	6.4	0.7
	Richland	7.1	6.6	0.5
40	Aiken	7.0	6.5	0.5
41	Jasper	6.9	6.2	0.7
42	Dorchester	6.8	6.2	0.6
43	Greenville	6.6	6.0	0.6
44	Charleston	6.2	5.6	0.6
45	Beaufort	6.0	5.3	0.7
46	Lexington	5.9	5.2	0.7

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

October-08

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	October 2008	September 2008	October 2007	October 2008	September 2008	October 2007	October 2008	September 2008	October 2007
ABBEVILLE	11,353	11,210	11,407	1,055	980	919	9.3	8.7	8.1
AIKEN	74,967	74,695	74,278	5,252	4,823	3,847	7.0	6.5	5.2
ALLENDALE	3,771	3,728	3,585	640	630	362	17.0	16.9	10.1
ANDERSON MSA	85,881	84,930	84,748	6,753	5,992	5,208	7.9	7.1	6.1
BAMBERG	6,415	6,337	6,253	884	863	580	13.8	13.6	9.3
BARNWELL	8,983	8,932	8,842	1,116	1,131	813	12.4	12.7	9.2
BEAUFORT	65,833	64,807	66,529	3,955	3,432	3,152	6.0	5.3	4.7
BERKELEY	76,835	76,289	75,312	5,474	5,070	3,844	7.1	6.6	5.1
CALHOUN	7,321	7,273	7,169	694	664	461	9.5	9.1	6.4
CHARLESTON	177,543	176,169	175,104	10,942	9,900	8,254	6.2	5.6	4.7
CHEROKEE	25,982	25,355	25,045	2,949	2,496	1,752	11.4	9.8	7.0
CHESTER	15,768	15,505	15,650	2,023	1,863	1,787	12.8	12.0	11.4
CHESTERFIELD	18,963	18,725	18,614	2,080	1,969	1,452	11.0	10.5	7.8
CLARENDON	12,937	12,712	12,887	1,462	1,370	1,119	11.3	10.8	8.7
COLLETON	17,074	16,872	16,848	1,703	1,632	1,137	10.0	9.7	6.7
DARLINGTON	32,525	32,490	31,644	3,102	2,902	2,103	9.5	8.9	6.6
DILLON	13,438	13,225	13,363	1,608	1,486	1,272	12.0	11.2	9.5
DORCHESTER	63,693	63,169	62,404	4,321	3,915	2,944	6.8	6.2	4.7
EDGEFIELD	11,033	10,951	10,908	912	807	683	8.3	7.4	6.3
FAIRFIELD	11,813	11,816	11,506	1,346	1,377	911	11.4	11.7	7.9
FLORENCE	64,538	64,387	63,467	5,308	4,826	4,001	8.2	7.5	6.3
GEORGETOWN	29,943	29,494	29,802	2,612	2,280	1,820	8.7	7.7	6.1
GREENVILLE	226,286	224,785	221,424	15,005	13,383	11,178	6.6	6.0	5.0
GREENWOOD	31,064	30,853	30,990	2,796	2,601	2,178	9.0	8.4	7.0
HAMPTON	8,107	7,971	8,046	826	768	575	10.2	9.6	7.1
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	132,271	132,618	130,838	11,144	9,184	6,876	8.4	6.9	5.3
JASPER	10,759	10,587	10,747	742	652	488	6.9	6.2	4.5
KERSHAW	30,435	29,942	30,166	2,489	2,071	1,878	8.2	6.9	6.2
LANCASTER	30,266	29,987	30,039	3,656	3,575	3,168	12.1	11.9	10.5
LAURENS	35,008	34,879	34,722	2,733	2,586	2,606	7.8	7.4	7.5
LEE	8,339	8,093	8,273	973	797	729	11.7	9.8	8.8
LEXINGTON	133,409	132,120	133,142	7,865	6,912	6,062	5.9	5.2	4.6
McCORMICK	3,545	3,477	3,525	427	380	339	12.0	10.9	9.6
MARION	13,243	13,044	12,884	2,099	1,958	1,495	15.8	15.0	11.6
MARLBORO	12,327	11,917	12,100	1,894	1,648	1,408	15.4	13.8	11.6
NEWBERRY	18,246	17,904	18,074	1,580	1,464	1,074	8.7	8.2	5.9
OCONEE	30,614	29,992	30,294	2,790	2,374	2,046	9.1	7.9	6.8
ORANGEBURG	41,856	41,442	40,967	5,241	5,184	3,535	12.5	12.5	8.6
PICKENS	60,410	59,949	59,094	4,307	3,814	3,266	7.1	6.4	5.5
RICHLAND	179,696	178,333	178,942	12,767	11,852	9,971	7.1	6.6	5.6
SALUDA	9,544	9,419	9,444	697	596	489	7.3	6.3	5.2
SPARTANBURG MSA	137,089	136,248	132,687	10,985	9,919	8,154	8.0	7.3	6.1
SUMTER MSA	45,134	44,033	45,110	4,284	3,874	3,414	9.5	8.8	7.6
UNION	11,851	11,710	11,623	1,454	1,389	1,120	12.3	11.9	9.6
WILLIAMSBURG	15,719	15,492	15,592	1,809	1,677	1,360	11.5	10.8	8.7
YORK	108,239	108,562	103,934	8,438	8,684	5,273	7.8	8.0	5.1
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	318,070	315,626	312,820	20,736	18,884	15,042	6.5	6.0	4.8
COLA MSA	372,218	368,904	370,370	25,857	23,472	19,772	6.9	6.4	5.3
FLORENCE MSA	97,063	96,877	95,111	8,410	7,728	6,104	8.7	8.0	6.4
GRNV MSA	321,705	319,613	315,240	22,046	19,783	17,049	6.9	6.2	5.4
South Carolina*	2,172.4	2,158.7	2,145.0	173.5	156.9	128.5	8.0	7.3	6.0

* Seasonally Adjusted