

## WORKFORCE TRENDS

# Newsline



Released October 21, 2008

### SC Jobless Rate Down, But Economy Still Struggles

South Carolina's unemployment rate dropped slightly to 7.3% in September after reaching a 15-year high of 7.6% in August, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. According to Roosevelt T. Halley, Executive Director of the Commission, the drop in the unemployment rate is largely due to discouraged unemployed job seekers quitting their job searches and leaving the labor force. "There's very little positive news regarding the national or state economy right now," Halley said. The state's labor force decreased nearly 6,000 in September to 2,159,180, while the number of unemployed declined 6,500 to 157,047. The national unemployment rate held steady at 6.1% in September.

The number of jobs in South Carolina fell 14,400 over the month, the largest September decrease on record. All major industry sectors lost jobs in September, except Education and Health Services (+2,100) and Government (+4,900). The gains were the result of state, local, and private schools re-staffing for the fall term. On the downside, Leisure and Hospitality posted a seasonal loss of 11,100 as the tourist season began to wind down. Notable losses were also experienced in Retail Trade (-3,300), Manufacturing (-2,300), Professional and Business Services (-1,300), Financial Activities (-900), and Construction (-700). Construction jobs have declined for the last eleven consecutive months. The overall job count, at 1,950,565 in September, was nearly 13,000 below the year-ago figure. This marks the second month in a row that the number of jobs in the state has fallen below year-ago levels.

"There is not a lot to be optimistic about right now," Halley said. "The recent crisis in the financial markets occurred after our survey week in September, so the impact will not be reflected in our figures until the October and November data are released."



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

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**WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT**

September-08

Industry	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	Net Change From	
	2008	2008	2007	Month	Year
				Ago	Ago
<b>Total Nonag. Employment</b>	<b>1,950,500</b>	<b>1,964,900</b>	<b>1,963,400</b>	<b>-14,400</b>	<b>-12,900</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	4,400	4,400	4,600	0	-200
Construction	111,700	112,400	129,500	-700	-17,800
Manufacturing	241,300	243,600	249,300	-2,300	-8,000
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	371,000	374,600	375,600	-3,600	-4,600
Information	27,500	27,600	28,000	-100	-500
Financial Activities	108,300	109,200	107,200	-900	1,100
Professional and Business Services	225,800	227,100	229,600	-1,300	-3,800
Educational and Health Services	209,500	207,400	203,700	2,100	5,800
Leisure and Hospitality	226,000	237,100	221,300	-11,100	4,700
Government	350,900	346,000	340,800	4,900	10,100

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY**

**Unemployment Rate**

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		September 2008	August 2008	Change
1	Allendale	16.9	17.0	-0.1
2	Marion	15.0	15.1	-0.1
3	Bamberg	13.6	13.7	-0.1
4	Marlboro	12.9	13.2	-0.3
5	Barnwell	12.7	12.4	0.3
6	Orangeburg	12.5	12.6	-0.1
7	Union	11.9	12.4	-0.5
8	Chester	11.8	12.6	-0.8
9	Fairfield	11.7	12.4	-0.7
10	Lancaster	11.6	12.1	-0.5
11	Dillon	11.0	11.3	-0.3
12	McCormick	10.9	12.1	-1.2
	Williamsburg	10.9	11.5	-0.6
14	Clarendon	10.7	10.8	-0.1
15	Chesterfield	10.1	10.2	-0.1
16	Lee	9.9	10.5	-0.6
17	Cherokee	9.7	9.6	0.1
	Colleton	9.7	9.9	-0.2
19	Hampton	9.6	10.1	-0.5
20	Calhoun	9.2	9.0	0.2
21	Darlington	9.0	9.3	-0.3
22	Abbeville	8.8	9.6	-0.8
	Sumter	8.8	9.0	-0.2
24	Greenwood	8.5	8.7	-0.2
25	Newberry	8.1	8.6	-0.5
26	Oconee	7.9	8.2	-0.3
27	Georgetown	7.8	7.9	-0.1
28	Florence	7.6	8.1	-0.5
	York	7.6	7.8	-0.2
30	Laurens	7.5	7.9	-0.4
31	Edgefield	7.4	7.8	-0.4
32	Spartanburg	7.3	8.1	-0.8
33	Anderson	7.1	7.9	-0.8
34	Kershaw	7.0	7.4	-0.4
35	Horry	6.9	6.5	0.4
36	Berkeley	6.7	7.3	-0.6
	Richland	6.7	7.3	-0.6
38	Pickens	6.4	7.2	-0.8
	Saluda	6.4	6.6	-0.2
40	Aiken	6.3	6.9	-0.6
41	Dorchester	6.3	6.4	-0.1
42	Jasper	6.2	6.4	-0.2
43	Greenville	6.0	6.4	-0.4
44	Charleston	5.7	6.1	-0.4
45	Beaufort	5.3	5.8	-0.5
	Lexington	5.3	5.6	-0.3

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

September-08

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	September 2008	August 2008	September 2007	September 2008	August 2008	September 2007	September 2008	August 2008	September 2007
ABBEVILLE	11,261	11,465	11,353	992	1,106	915	8.8	9.6	8.1
AIKEN	74,545	75,578	74,575	4,691	5,234	4,046	6.3	6.9	5.4
ALLENDALE	3,759	3,800	3,561	637	645	361	16.9	17.0	10.1
ANDERSON MSA	84,852	85,653	85,208	6,042	6,789	5,231	7.1	7.9	6.1
BAMBERG	6,389	6,483	6,267	871	890	615	13.6	13.7	9.8
BARNWELL	8,996	9,061	8,840	1,143	1,123	859	12.7	12.4	9.7
BEAUFORT	65,305	66,395	65,978	3,455	3,853	3,065	5.3	5.8	4.6
BERKELEY	76,135	77,565	75,452	5,127	5,637	3,901	6.7	7.3	5.2
CALHOUN	7,263	7,312	7,206	671	660	516	9.2	9.0	7.2
CHARLESTON	175,772	178,840	175,291	9,996	10,916	8,246	5.7	6.1	4.7
CHEROKEE	25,455	25,668	24,885	2,462	2,474	1,739	9.7	9.6	7.0
CHESTER	15,526	15,789	15,583	1,832	1,995	1,817	11.8	12.6	11.7
CHESTERFIELD	18,726	18,923	18,449	1,887	1,934	1,403	10.1	10.2	7.6
CLARENDON	12,825	12,999	12,841	1,375	1,404	1,112	10.7	10.8	8.7
COLLETON	16,985	17,221	16,717	1,649	1,709	1,105	9.7	9.9	6.6
DARLINGTON	32,347	32,756	31,782	2,912	3,057	2,106	9.0	9.3	6.6
DILLON	13,271	13,486	13,407	1,458	1,524	1,331	11.0	11.3	9.9
DORCHESTER	63,023	63,949	62,506	3,945	4,106	2,976	6.3	6.4	4.8
EDGEFIELD	10,954	11,070	10,924	813	858	685	7.4	7.8	6.3
FAIRFIELD	11,796	11,997	11,512	1,384	1,490	946	11.7	12.4	8.2
FLORENCE	64,124	65,019	63,761	4,870	5,236	4,023	7.6	8.1	6.3
GEORGETOWN	29,728	30,411	29,680	2,308	2,407	1,780	7.8	7.9	6.0
GREENVILLE	224,482	225,059	221,375	13,512	14,387	11,173	6.0	6.4	5.0
GREENWOOD	30,839	31,228	30,817	2,629	2,706	2,217	8.5	8.7	7.2
HAMPTON	8,035	8,169	7,981	775	829	566	9.6	10.1	7.1
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	133,325	141,174	133,056	9,213	9,208	6,521	6.9	6.5	4.9
JASPER	10,669	10,816	10,700	657	692	516	6.2	6.4	4.8
KERSHAW	29,893	30,280	29,924	2,093	2,227	1,713	7.0	7.4	5.7
LANCASTER	30,001	30,420	29,638	3,476	3,684	2,960	11.6	12.1	10.0
LAURENS	34,829	34,929	34,796	2,602	2,748	2,686	7.5	7.9	7.7
LEE	8,139	8,306	8,215	804	874	669	9.9	10.5	8.1
LEXINGTON	131,861	133,450	132,784	6,976	7,429	6,051	5.3	5.6	4.6
McCORMICK	3,490	3,586	3,520	379	433	343	10.9	12.1	9.7
MARION	13,116	13,359	12,857	1,966	2,013	1,504	15.0	15.1	11.7
MARLBORO	11,862	12,018	11,895	1,535	1,586	1,308	12.9	13.2	11.0
NEWBERRY	17,990	18,291	17,981	1,466	1,574	1,090	8.1	8.6	6.1
OCONEE	30,155	30,495	30,212	2,392	2,514	2,108	7.9	8.2	7.0
ORANGEBURG	41,718	42,314	41,215	5,222	5,312	3,920	12.5	12.6	9.5
PICKENS	59,877	60,307	58,976	3,857	4,366	3,159	6.4	7.2	5.4
RICHLAND	178,039	180,684	178,654	11,987	13,121	10,145	6.7	7.3	5.7
SALUDA	9,400	9,506	9,439	599	625	508	6.4	6.6	5.4
SPARTANBURG MSA	136,254	137,330	132,140	9,992	11,080	7,885	7.3	8.1	6.0
SUMTER MSA	44,684	45,556	45,304	3,917	4,079	3,287	8.8	9.0	7.3
UNION	11,777	11,931	11,487	1,400	1,476	1,049	11.9	12.4	9.1
WILLIAMSBURG	15,591	15,937	15,524	1,695	1,835	1,356	10.9	11.5	8.7
YORK	107,843	108,001	103,590	8,223	8,382	5,610	7.6	7.8	5.4
<b>Multi County MSAs</b>									
CHAS MSA	314,929	320,355	313,249	19,068	20,659	15,123	6.1	6.4	4.8
COLA MSA	368,253	373,229	369,519	23,711	25,552	19,879	6.4	6.8	5.4
FLORENCE MSA	96,471	97,775	95,543	7,782	8,293	6,129	8.1	8.5	6.4
GRNV MSA	319,187	320,295	315,146	19,970	21,500	17,018	6.3	6.7	5.4
<b>South Carolina*</b>	<b>2,159.2</b>	<b>2,165.1</b>	<b>2,142.2</b>	<b>157.0</b>	<b>163.6</b>	<b>126.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>

\* Seasonally Adjusted