

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



Released September 19, 2008

State Unemployment Climbs to 7.6% In August

South Carolina's unemployment rate rose significantly for the second straight month, reaching 7.6% in August. Following a record-setting increase to 7.0% in July, the August rate was the highest since May 1993. The jump in the jobless rate was largely due to continued layoffs in the state's Manufacturing and Construction sectors. The state's labor force totaled 2,166,897 in August. The number of unemployed totaled 165,450, an increase of nearly 14,000 over the July level. The national rate also rose in August from 5.7% to 6.1%.

The number of nonfarm jobs in South Carolina rose 23,300 in August to 1,965,900, which is a typical increase for this time of year. The majority of the increase occurred in the Government sector as state and local schools began re-staffing for the fall term. Private sector jobs decreased 7,600 over the month, as seasonal job gains in Education and Health Services (+1,300) were diminished by the losses in Manufacturing (-1,600); Construction (-1,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,500); and Professional and Business Services (-700). Leisure and Hospitality recorded a seasonal loss of 3,200. Overall, the non-farm job count was 3,800 below the August 2007 level.

South Carolina's persistently high level of unemployment over the last year has taken its toll on the state Unemployment Insurance trust fund, which is the source of benefits for qualified unemployed workers. The money in the trust fund is generated through taxes paid by the state's employers, based on their number of employees. As explained by Executive Director Roosevelt T. Halley, the amount of employer taxes decreases with layoffs, while the need for the funds increases as the unemployment rate goes up. "With recent high unemployment rates, the state has been draining its trust fund," said Mr. Halley, "but a lot of states are in the same situation." The state's current trust fund reserves are at an extremely low level. However, jobless workers will continue to get their benefits because the federal government provides loans to states that deplete their trust funds. South Carolina is currently paying out about \$10 million a week in Unemployment Insurance benefits.



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

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
August-08

Industry	AUGUST 2008	JULY 2008	AUGUST 2007	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,965,900	1,942,600	1,969,700	23,300	-3,800
Natural Resources and Mining	4,400	4,400	4,600	0	-200
Construction	112,400	113,400	129,400	-1,000	-17,000
Manufacturing	242,900	244,500	249,900	-1,600	-7,000
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	374,300	375,800	377,900	-1,500	-3,600
Information	27,400	27,500	28,100	-100	-700
Financial Activities	109,000	109,100	108,300	-100	700
Professional and Business Services	228,300	229,000	229,900	-700	-1,600
Educational and Health Services	208,100	206,800	202,400	1,300	5,700
Leisure and Hospitality	237,300	240,500	229,700	-3,200	7,600
Government	346,300	315,400	335,900	30,900	10,400

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		August 2008	July 2008	Change
1	Allendale	17.2	15.9	1.3
2	Marion	15.2	14.7	0.5
3	Bamberg	13.9	12.6	1.3
4	Marlboro	13.3	12.5	0.8
5	Chester	12.8	12.1	0.7
6	Orangeburg	12.7	11.4	1.3
7	Fairfield	12.6	11.8	0.8
8	Barnwell	12.5	11.2	1.3
	Union	12.5	11.4	1.1
10	Lancaster	12.2	11.3	0.9
	McCormick	12.2	10.7	1.5
	Williamsburg	11.7	10.9	0.8
13	Dillon	11.4	10.7	0.7
14	Clarendon	10.9	10.5	0.4
15	Lee	10.6	10.1	0.5
16	Chesterfield	10.3	9.4	0.9
	Hampton	10.3	9.5	0.8
18	Colleton	10.0	8.9	1.1
19	Abbeville	9.7	8.6	1.1
	Cherokee	9.7	9.1	0.6
21	Darlington	9.5	8.5	1.0
22	Calhoun	9.1	8.1	1.0
23	Sumter	9.0	8.6	0.4
24	Greenwood	8.8	7.8	1.0
25	Newberry	8.7	7.9	0.8
26	Oconee	8.3	7.7	0.6
27	Florence	8.2	7.5	0.7
28	Spartanburg	8.1	7.5	0.6
29	Anderson	8.0	7.0	1.0
	Georgetown	8.0	7.4	0.6
	Laurens	8.0	7.2	0.8
32	York	7.9	7.3	0.6
33	Edgefield	7.8	6.7	1.1
34	Berkeley	7.4	6.6	0.8
	Kershaw	7.4	6.7	0.7
36	Pickens	7.3	6.3	1.0
	Richland	7.3	6.6	0.7
38	Aiken	7.0	6.1	0.9
39	Horry	6.6	6.0	0.6
	Saluda	6.6	5.9	0.7
41	Dorchester	6.5	5.9	0.6
	Greenville	6.5	5.8	0.7
	Jasper	6.5	6.5	0.0
44	Charleston	6.2	5.7	0.5
45	Beaufort	5.9	5.7	0.2
46	Lexington	5.6	5.2	0.4

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

August-08

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	August 2008	July 2008	August 2007	August 2008	July 2008	August 2007	August 2008	July 2008	August 2007
ABBEVILLE	11,493	11,374	11,522	1,119	974	968	9.7	8.6	8.4
AIKEN	75,587	76,346	74,491	5,285	4,674	4,147	7.0	6.1	5.6
ALLENDALE	3,811	3,742	3,593	654	595	358	17.2	15.9	10.0
ANDERSON MSA	86,068	86,202	84,588	6,872	6,063	5,195	8.0	7.0	6.1
BAMBERG	6,503	6,394	6,349	904	807	606	13.9	12.6	9.5
BARNWELL	9,075	8,962	8,945	1,136	1,004	860	12.5	11.2	9.6
BEAUFORT	66,463	66,620	67,101	3,892	3,821	3,050	5.9	5.7	4.5
BERKELEY	77,528	79,094	75,961	5,699	5,238	3,880	7.4	6.6	5.1
CALHOUN	7,327	7,396	7,158	667	601	472	9.1	8.1	6.6
CHARLESTON	178,727	182,819	176,708	11,035	10,393	8,427	6.2	5.7	4.8
CHEROKEE	25,704	25,524	25,226	2,503	2,325	1,765	9.7	9.1	7.0
CHESTER	15,799	15,751	15,743	2,020	1,901	1,839	12.8	12.1	11.7
CHESTERFIELD	18,926	18,770	18,661	1,949	1,773	1,432	10.3	9.4	7.7
CLARENDON	13,020	12,867	12,976	1,420	1,349	1,125	10.9	10.5	8.7
COLLETON	17,246	17,095	16,904	1,730	1,514	1,082	10.0	8.9	6.4
DARLINGTON	32,698	32,268	31,861	3,092	2,743	2,102	9.5	8.5	6.6
DILLON	13,500	13,346	13,582	1,538	1,434	1,344	11.4	10.7	9.9
DORCHESTER	63,909	65,289	62,894	4,148	3,841	2,924	6.5	5.9	4.6
EDGEFIELD	11,071	11,152	10,905	865	747	693	7.8	6.7	6.4
FAIRFIELD	12,033	12,164	11,542	1,514	1,432	982	12.6	11.8	8.5
FLORENCE	64,900	64,229	63,918	5,304	4,796	4,013	8.2	7.5	6.3
GEORGETOWN	30,449	30,311	30,264	2,439	2,249	1,800	8.0	7.4	5.9
GREENVILLE	225,312	227,760	218,349	14,550	13,101	11,034	6.5	5.8	5.1
GREENWOOD	31,278	31,012	31,341	2,741	2,426	2,249	8.8	7.8	7.2
HAMPTON	8,182	8,104	8,065	839	773	547	10.3	9.5	6.8
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	141,224	141,562	137,896	9,286	8,444	6,173	6.6	6.0	4.5
JASPER	10,832	10,869	10,892	703	703	524	6.5	6.5	4.8
KERSHAW	30,342	30,709	29,901	2,258	2,055	1,706	7.4	6.7	5.7
LANCASTER	30,440	30,264	29,781	3,728	3,413	2,795	12.2	11.3	9.4
LAURENS	34,986	35,353	34,402	2,791	2,563	2,733	8.0	7.2	7.9
LEE	8,314	8,218	8,267	883	826	683	10.6	10.1	8.3
LEXINGTON	133,674	135,745	132,550	7,512	7,020	5,890	5.6	5.2	4.4
McCORMICK	3,593	3,534	3,572	439	379	346	12.2	10.7	9.7
MARION	13,380	13,274	13,054	2,038	1,951	1,529	15.2	14.7	11.7
MARLBORO	12,037	11,903	12,059	1,602	1,490	1,374	13.3	12.5	11.4
NEWBERRY	18,318	18,203	18,119	1,591	1,432	1,095	8.7	7.9	6.0
OCONEE	30,539	30,472	30,503	2,538	2,335	2,160	8.3	7.7	7.1
ORANGEBURG	42,391	41,830	41,567	5,375	4,774	3,683	12.7	11.4	8.9
PICKENS	60,384	60,817	58,360	4,419	3,817	3,310	7.3	6.3	5.7
RICHLAND	181,028	183,284	178,810	13,277	12,125	10,397	7.3	6.6	5.8
SALUDA	9,524	9,641	9,442	633	570	516	6.6	5.9	5.5
SPARTANBURG MSA	137,566	135,967	131,587	11,206	10,215	7,905	8.1	7.5	6.0
SUMTER MSA	45,641	44,743	45,557	4,126	3,860	3,274	9.0	8.6	7.2
UNION	11,957	11,763	11,628	1,495	1,336	1,088	12.5	11.4	9.4
WILLIAMSBURG	15,958	15,798	15,732	1,860	1,720	1,377	11.7	10.9	8.8
YORK	107,736	108,813	103,536	8,475	7,946	5,562	7.9	7.3	5.4
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	320,163	327,203	315,563	20,882	19,473	15,231	6.5	6.0	4.8
COLA MSA	373,927	378,941	369,403	25,861	23,804	19,963	6.9	6.3	5.4
FLORENCE MSA	97,598	96,497	95,779	8,396	7,539	6,115	8.6	7.8	6.4
GRNV MSA	320,682	323,930	311,111	21,760	19,481	17,077	6.8	6.0	5.5
South Carolina*	2,166.9	2,162.6	2,128.7	165.5	151.9	124.0	7.6	7.0	5.8

* Seasonally Adjusted