



Unemployment Insurance Fraud



For people who are out of work, Unemployment Insurance provides a weekly check that keeps food on the table and bills paid. The system was established to help people between jobs, and most of the people who use it are honest and fair. Unfortunately, that does not apply to all.

require us to pay people who file claims for unemployment as soon as possible. On the other hand, because of the fraud that's involved in the program, we go aggressively after people who try to commit fraud, both the employers and the claimants."

Claimant Fraud

"Anytime you have money involved in a program you're going to have people who try to beat the system," says Allen Larson, Deputy Executive Director, Unemployment Insurance.

Sometimes, claimants will try to boost their earnings with a job, often with a family friend, where they are paid in cash – a venture that could well result in a visit from an Unemployment Insurance (UI) investigator.

On the claimant side, there are people who may supplement their benefits by working a small job and getting paid in cash – or those who start back to work and file for benefits to tide them over in the weeks until the first paycheck.

Some claimants will continue to file after they have already found a legitimate job, usually because there is a delay in getting the first paycheck.

There are also scam artists who set up fake accounts, or legitimate employers who file false claims.

"People will typically say that they did not know they were required to report these earnings," said Patrick

The Unemployment Insurance system in South Carolina is dedicated to fighting fraud on both sides.

"We have to balance the need to pay people who are unemployed, in a timely manner, along with the need to pay people accurately," Larson said. "There are federal laws that

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Holmes, of the Unemployment Insurance Tax Department. “They will say that they had not received a paycheck, so they continued to file until they received their first paycheck.”

Either way, it is risky, and can be easily spotted through a system known as cross matching, where Social Security numbers of UI claimants are compared against wage records.

Holmes said his department regularly receives reports from the Department of Social Services on people who have returned to work, which are matched against benefit payment files.

“If we notice that someone has received benefits after a reported date of hire, it creates a conflict,” said Holmes. “We will then research to see if that individual reported any earnings during the week they filed their claim. From that, we determine if there is an overpayment. Based on that overpayment and the claimant’s response, or lack of response, we make a determination as to whether or not this overpayment was fraudulent or non-fraudulent in nature.” Sometimes, the fraud will show up later, when claims are re-audited.

The agency will work with claimants to see that money is repaid. “We don’t want to create an additional hardship for someone by being overly aggressive in having them to pay the money back,” Holmes said. “We try to create a reasonable repayment agreement with the claimants.”

For less cooperative claimants, there are other ways of repayment — such as wage garnishment or interception of state income tax refunds. People who owe money to the UI system will also find that when they reapply for benefits in the future, their benefits will go to pay their old debt first.

Employer Fraud

There are generally two types of employer scams against the UI system: fictitious and fraudulent. “Fictitious employers” are people who, using borrowed or stolen Social Security numbers, set up a phony business with phony employees, then shut it down and collect the benefits.

“We have seen individuals who try to set up fictitious accounts,” said Larson. “That is, they will try to register with us indicating they have a valid account, they may pay just enough taxes and report just enough wages to submit claims to get the maximum amount of money each week.”

In one case, a New York City woman set up two fictitious accounts with three employees. After the so-called businesses closed down, the employees — whose checks were all traced to the same person — called in their claims.

Once the federal authorities got involved, they found the fraud ran a lot deeper than they thought: she had ripped-off \$65,000

from five different states during a span of seven years, and as a result, received a stiff jail sentence.

Since then, scammers have come up with even newer ways of plying their trade.

“There still are fictitious employer schemes out there, but it has evolved into ID theft,” said Bryan Johnson, Investigator for UI Internal Security. “What you’re looking at now in other states, is people dumpster diving, stealing payroll records, or having someone on the inside. Once they get these records, they’ll use the names and Social Security numbers to call in phony claims.”

“What we do whenever we detect a fictitious employer account scheme — of course, we immediately shut the account down and try to recoup all the monies we can,” Larson said. “But if we have enough information to prosecute, we do that to the fullest extent of the law, and individuals have gone to jail because of it. We

"Fictitious employers" are people who, using borrowed or stolen Social Security numbers, set up a phony business with phony employees, then shut it down and collect the benefits.

"If a person files an unemployment claim using a Social Security number that is not assigned to them, with the intent to deceive or commit fraud, it is a federal offense."

aggressively pursue those types of cases because we want to make sure that the word gets out, if anyone else tries to do something like this, we're going to go after them as much as we can."

Sometimes, real employers – who can file claims for their employees – will file claims for employees using Social Security numbers that do not belong to them. The key to cracking down on this type of fraud has been the Social Security verification program, in which the information on new claims is matched against Social Security records.

Since starting the program in 2003, some 3,900 suspicious claims have been spotted, and about 3,700 of those have had their payments either denied or halted.

"If a person files an unemployment claim using a Social Security number that is not assigned to them, with the intent to deceive or commit fraud, it is a federal offense," said Johnson. "And we will prosecute those cases."

What You Can Do To Help

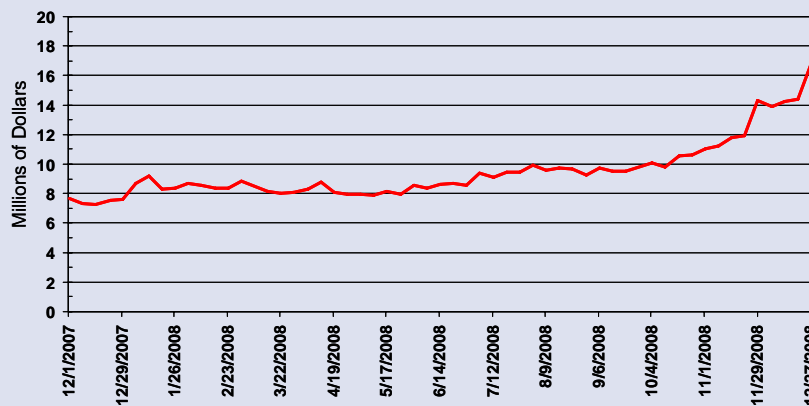
Employers can help prevent UI fraud by responding to the SC Employment Security Commission wage request verification forms, properly filing their quarterly contribution and wage reports, and checking their quarterly charge statements to verify benefits charged against their accounts.

If you suspect fraudulent activity of any kind, call 1-800-868-1488 or visit our website at www.sces.org, and follow the UI Fraud Hotline link. Your information is kept confidential and will not be revealed.

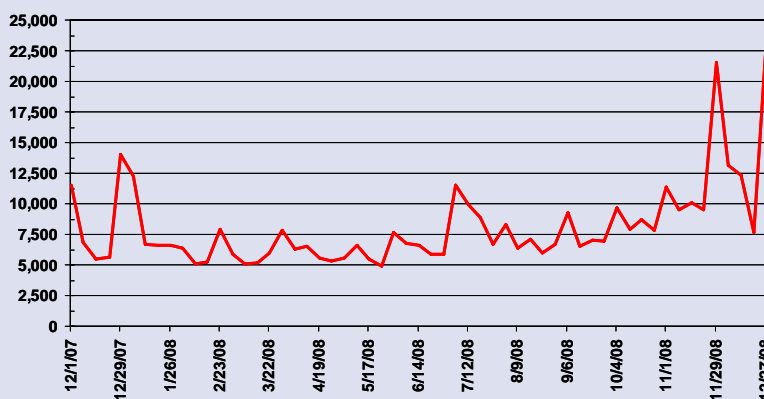
"We are stewards of the employer's money," said Larson. "They pay the taxes. They're the ones who pay the bills here, and it's our responsibility – and we take it very seriously – to be sure we only pay people who are actually due the money."

*by Rodney Welch,
Department of Communications*

**SC Weekly Unemployment Insurance Benefits Paid
December 2007 through December 2008**



**SC Weekly Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims
December 2007 through December 2008**



Total initial claims were 22,548 for the week ending 12/27/08.





December 2008

National unemployment rate soars . . .

The national unemployment rate rose from 6.8% to 7.2% in December and was up 2.3 percentage points from a year ago. The number of unemployed people increased by 632,000 to 11.1 million. Since the beginning of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed persons has grown by 3.6 million. Unemployment rates for adult men (7.2%), adult women (5.9%), and whites (6.6%) increased, while rates for teenagers (20.8%), blacks (11.9%), and Hispanics (9.2%) were little changed.

Regional and State Rates... Regional and state unemployment rates were universally higher in December. All 50 states and the District of Columbia recorded both over-the-month and over-the-year unemployment rate increases. The West and Midwest posted the highest regional jobless rates, 8.0% and 7.5%, respectively. The Northeast and **South** recorded the lowest unemployment rates, **7.0%** each. Michigan (10.6%) and Rhode Island (10.0%) reported the highest unemployment in December, followed by **South Carolina (9.5%)** and California (9.3%). Wyoming (3.4%) and North Dakota (3.5%) registered the lowest jobless rates. In December of 2007, the rate for South Carolina was 6.2%. South Carolina has lost 54,100 jobs since December of 2007.

Employment continues to plunge...Total nonfarm payroll employment declined sharply (-524,000) in December, the largest decline since August 2001. Over the past 4 months, payroll employment has fallen by 1.9 million, or 1.4%. In December, large job losses continued in Manufacturing, Construction, and Employment

Services, while Health Care continued to add jobs. Manufacturing fell by 149,000. Factory job losses totaled 791,000 in 2008, with nearly half of the decrease occurring in the fourth quarter. The largest job losses occurred in Fabricated Metal Products (-28,000) and Motor Vehicles and Parts (-21,000). Construction continued to decline (-101,000) in December, and has fallen by 899,000 since peaking in September 2006. In Professional and Business Services, the Temporary Help industry lost 81,000 jobs, bringing job losses in 2008 to 490,000. Retail Trade declined by 67,000 in December, and by 522,000 for all of 2008. More than half of the losses in 2008 occurred in the last 4 months of the year. Employment decreased in Automobile Dealerships (-22,000), Furniture and Home Furnishing stores (-8,000), and Electronics and Appliance stores (-5,000). Wholesale Trade fell by 30,000 in December, and by 164,000 in 2008.

Elsewhere in the Service Providing sector, Transportation and Warehousing declined by 24,000 in December, with losses in Truck Transportation (-16,000) and Air Transportation (-4,000). The Information industry lost 20,000 jobs. Food Services continued to trend downward (-20,000) and has decreased by 104,000 since its recent peak in June 2008. Financial Activities edged down in December, and fell by 148,000 in 2008. Health Care continued to grow (32,000) in December, and added 372,000 jobs in 2008.

(The change in total nonfarm employment for October was revised from -320,000 to -423,000, and the change for November was revised from -533,000 to -584,000. Monthly revisions result from additional sample reports and the monthly recalculations of seasonal factors.)

Average Hourly and Weekly Earnings...In December, the average workweek for production workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.2 hour to 33.3 hours, seasonally adjusted; the lowest level on record for the series, which began in 1964. The

manufacturing workweek, at 39.9 hours, declined by 0.4 hour. Average hourly earnings of production workers on private nonfarm payrolls rose by 5 cents, or 0.3%, seasonally adjusted. This followed gains of 8 cents in November, and 6 cents in October. For all of 2008, average hourly earnings increased by 3.7% and average weekly earnings rose by 2.2%.

Producer Price Index (PPI) Continues Decline...The Producer Price Index, which measures the cost of a basket of goods and services from the perspective of the seller, fell 1.9% in December, seasonally adjusted. This decrease followed a 2.2% decline in November and a 2.8% drop in October. At the earlier stages of processing, prices received by producers of intermediate goods fell by 4.2% in December after decreasing 4.3% in November. The crude goods index declined 5.3% following a 12.5% drop in November.

Consumer Inflation Decreases...The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the average change in prices of goods and services from the purchaser's perspective, decreased 1.0% in December, before seasonal adjustment. This was 0.1% higher than in December of 2007. Declining energy prices, particularly for gasoline, again drove most of the decline. The energy index declined 8.3% in December. Within energy, the gasoline index fell 17.2% and accounted for almost 90% of the decrease. The index for household energy declined 0.7%. For the 12 month period ending December 2008, the CPI rose 0.1%. This was the smallest calendar year increase since a 0.7% decline in 1954, and compares with a 4.1% increase for the 12 months ending in December 2007.

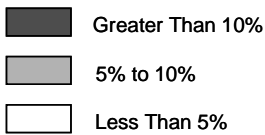
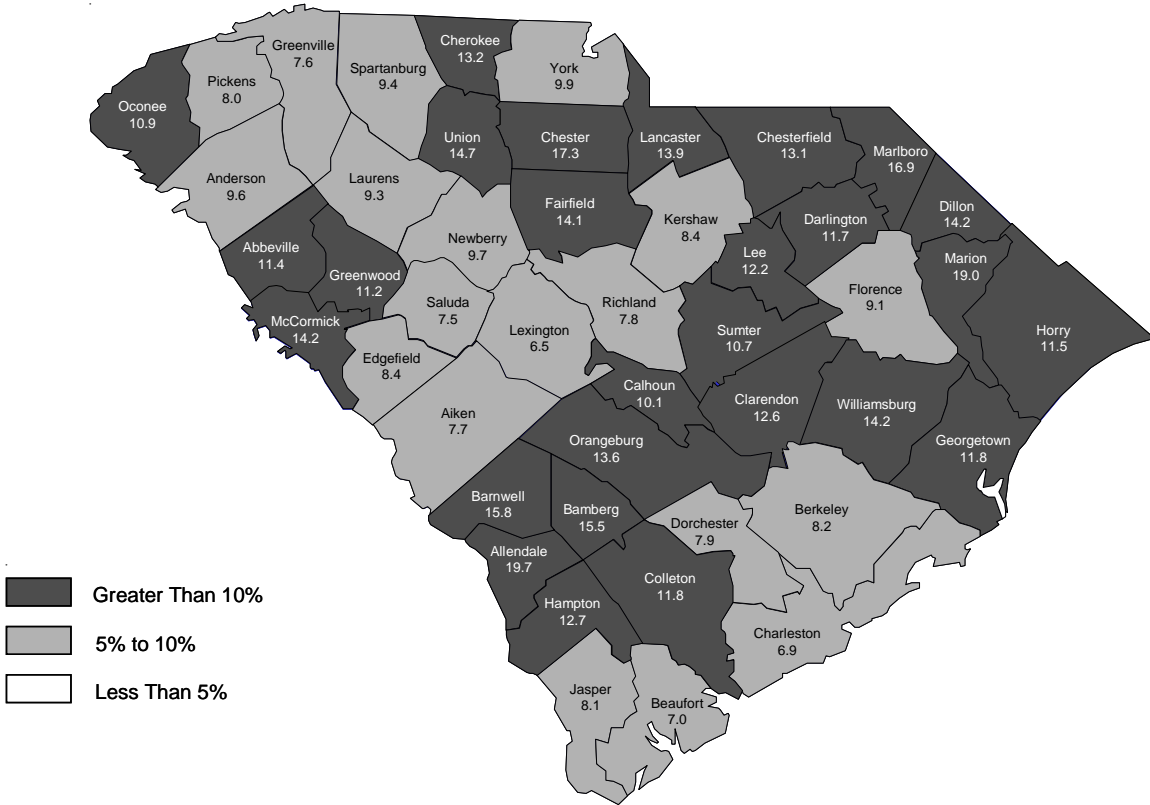
The CPI is the government's broadest gauge of costs of goods and services. Almost 60% of the CPI covers prices consumers pay for services, ranging from medical visits to airline fares and movie tickets.

Sources:

- ☐ Bureau of Labor Statistics
- ☐ U.S. Department of Labor

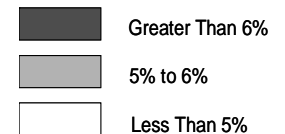
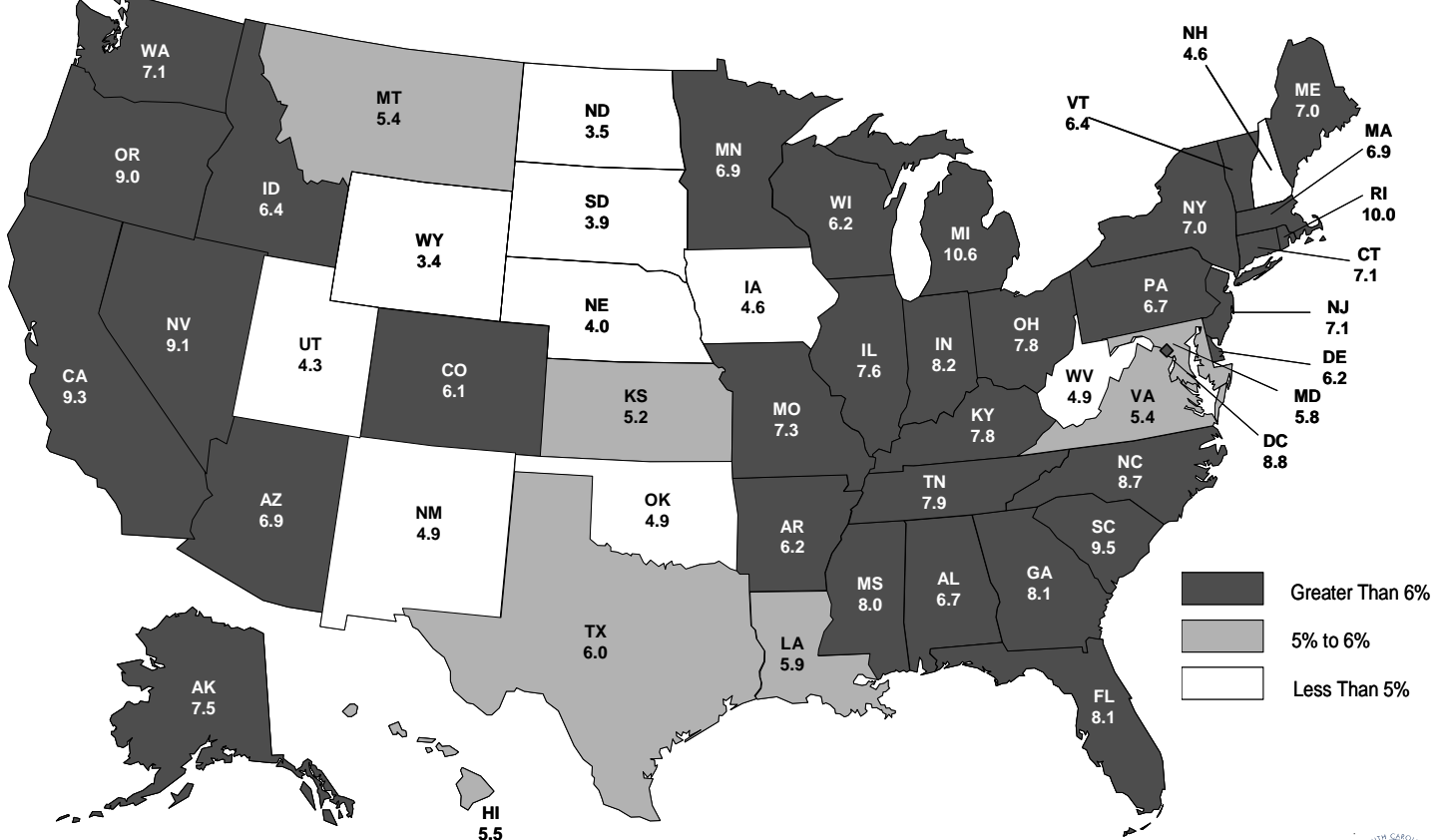
South Carolina Unemployment Rates by County

December 2008 State Unemployment Rate = 9.5%



United States Unemployment Rates by State

December 2008 National Unemployment Rate = 7.2%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



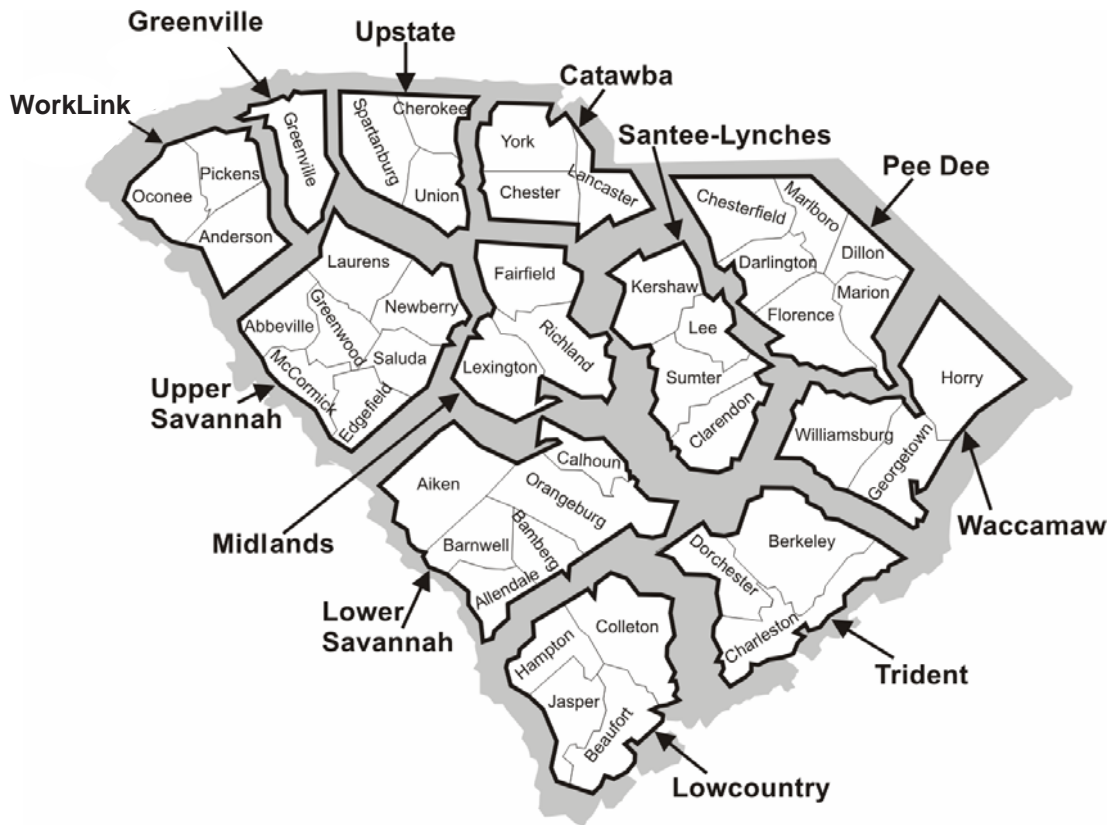
Labor Force and Unemployment by County and Metropolitan Area (MA) December 2008

County/MA	Labor Force			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007
Abbeville	11,270	11,194	11,443	1,288	1,068	1,121	11.4	9.5	9.8
Aiken	75,415	74,866	74,850	5,788	5,228	4,247	7.7	7.0	5.7
Allendale	3,774	3,733	3,694	744	653	543	19.7	17.5	14.7
Anderson MSA	86,253	85,309	84,465	8,307	6,823	5,406	9.6	8.0	6.4
Bamberg	6,336	6,354	6,312	979	902	718	15.5	14.2	11.4
Barnwell	9,075	9,034	8,891	1,431	1,286	976	15.8	14.2	11.0
Beaufort	64,179	64,594	65,273	4,466	3,994	3,141	7.0	6.2	4.8
Berkeley	76,635	76,377	75,009	6,318	5,646	4,021	8.2	7.4	5.4
Calhoun	7,362	7,302	7,236	742	653	531	10.1	8.9	7.3
Charleston	176,422	176,160	174,128	12,259	11,031	8,400	6.9	6.3	4.8
Cherokee	25,754	25,633	24,952	3,389	2,988	1,942	13.2	11.7	7.8
Chester	16,128	15,627	15,648	2,792	2,122	1,936	17.3	13.6	12.4
Chesterfield	18,867	18,814	18,443	2,477	2,197	1,550	13.1	11.7	8.4
Clarendon	12,599	12,720	12,793	1,593	1,492	1,253	12.6	11.7	9.8
Colleton	16,881	16,842	16,711	1,995	1,740	1,304	11.8	10.3	7.8
Darlington	33,466	33,155	32,005	3,924	3,376	2,366	11.7	10.2	7.4
Dillon	13,422	13,310	13,295	1,903	1,603	1,360	14.2	12.0	10.2
Dorchester	63,501	63,235	62,124	4,998	4,388	3,063	7.9	6.9	4.9
Edgefield	11,038	10,988	10,951	930	879	701	8.4	8.0	6.4
Fairfield	12,169	11,904	11,591	1,713	1,402	1,001	14.1	11.8	8.6
Florence	65,439	65,146	64,000	5,971	5,201	4,338	9.1	8.0	6.8
Georgetown	29,788	29,721	29,621	3,514	2,981	2,335	11.8	10.0	7.9
Greenville	225,617	225,503	221,114	17,168	15,382	11,278	7.6	6.8	5.1
Greenwood	30,724	30,556	30,630	3,445	2,841	2,304	11.2	9.3	7.5
Hampton	8,071	8,015	8,017	1,029	860	694	12.7	10.7	8.7
Horry/Myrtle Beach MSA	129,887	130,121	128,117	14,944	12,315	8,648	11.5	9.5	6.8
Jasper	10,523	10,541	10,557	857	731	499	8.1	6.9	4.7
Kershaw	30,487	30,410	30,126	2,570	2,371	1,853	8.4	7.8	6.2
Lancaster	29,974	29,855	29,943	4,178	3,727	3,388	13.9	12.5	11.3
Laurens	35,118	34,962	34,910	3,276	2,865	2,856	9.3	8.2	8.2
Lee	8,180	8,182	8,225	995	874	753	12.2	10.7	9.2
Lexington	134,069	133,842	132,976	8,658	7,883	5,964	6.5	5.9	4.5
McCormick	3,531	3,488	3,561	500	410	408	14.2	11.8	11.5
Marion	13,333	13,210	12,850	2,533	2,231	1,690	19.0	16.9	13.2
Marlboro	12,223	12,128	12,032	2,069	1,803	1,491	16.9	14.9	12.4
Newberry	18,001	18,096	17,917	1,755	1,597	1,121	9.7	8.8	6.3
Oconee	30,317	30,215	29,963	3,296	2,825	2,124	10.9	9.3	7.1
Orangeburg	41,167	41,289	40,883	5,604	5,147	3,902	13.6	12.5	9.5
Pickens	60,195	60,165	58,846	4,844	4,370	3,127	8.0	7.3	5.3
Richland	180,813	180,231	179,077	14,062	12,751	10,197	7.8	7.1	5.7
Saluda	9,554	9,564	9,417	716	688	467	7.5	7.2	5.0
Spartanburg MSA	137,824	136,522	133,010	12,949	11,293	8,455	9.4	8.3	6.4
Sumter MSA	42,960	43,722	45,069	4,611	4,242	3,793	10.7	9.7	8.4
Union	11,868	11,737	11,617	1,749	1,494	1,234	14.7	12.7	10.6
Williamsburg	15,715	15,671	15,602	2,226	1,966	1,652	14.2	12.5	10.6
York	108,194	107,495	104,542	10,719	9,395	6,074	9.9	8.7	5.8
Multi-County MSAs									
Charleston MSA	316,559	315,772	311,261	23,576	21,065	15,484	7.4	6.7	5.0
Columbia MSA	374,454	373,252	370,424	28,462	25,748	20,014	7.6	6.9	5.4
Florence MSA	98,905	98,301	96,005	9,895	8,577	6,704	10.0	8.7	7.0
Greenville MSA	320,930	320,631	314,871	25,288	22,617	17,262	7.9	7.1	5.5
South Carolina*	2,184.6	2,170.3	2,150.2	207.2	181.6	133.4	9.5	8.4	6.2
United States*	154,450	154,620	153,840	11,110	10,480	7,540	7.2	6.8	4.9

*Seasonally adjusted; in thousands



Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Area (WIA) December 2008



WIA Areas	Dec. 2008	WIA Areas	Dec. 2008	WIA Areas	Dec. 2008
CATAWBA WIA	11.5	MIDLANDS WIA	7.5	UPPER SAVANNAH WIA	10.0
Chester County	17.3	Fairfield County	14.1	McCormick County	14.2
Lancaster County	13.9	Richland County	7.8	Abbeville County	11.4
York County	9.9	Lexington County	6.5	Greenwood County	11.2
				Newberry County	9.7
		PEE DEE WIA	12.0	Laurens County	9.3
GREENVILLE WIA	7.6	Marion County	19.0	Edgefield County	8.4
Greenville County	7.6	Marlboro County	16.9	Saluda County	7.5
		Dillon County	14.2		
		Chesterfield County	13.1	UPSTATE WIA	10.3
LOWCOUNTRY WIA	8.4	Darlington County	11.7	Union County	14.7
Hampton County	12.7	Florence County	9.1	Cherokee County	13.2
Colleton County	11.8			Spartanburg County	9.4
Jasper County	8.1	SANTEE-LYNCHES WIA	10.4		
Beaufort County	7.0	Clarendon County	12.6	WACCAMAW WIA	11.8
		Lee County	12.2	Williamsburg County	14.2
LOWER SAVANNAH WIA	10.7	Sumter County	10.7	Georgetown County	11.8
Allendale County	19.7	Kershaw County	8.4	Horry County	11.5
Barnwell County	15.8				
Bamberg County	15.5	TRIDENT WIA	7.4	WORKLINK WIA	9.3
Orangeburg County	13.6	Berkeley County	8.2	Oconee County	10.9
Calhoun County	10.1	Dorchester County	7.9	Anderson County	9.6
Aiken County	7.7	Charleston County	6.9	Pickens County	8.0



Statewide Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment December 2008

Industry	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Net Change From:	
				Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,906,900	1,928,900	1,961,000	-22,000	-54,100
Total Private	1,551,000	1,573,000	1,614,500	-22,000	-63,500
Goods Producing	346,200	349,800	380,400	-3,600	-34,200
Service Providing	1,560,700	1,579,100	1,580,600	-18,400	-19,900
Private Service Providing	1,204,800	1,223,200	1,234,100	-18,400	-29,300
Natural Resources & Mining	4,200	4,300	4,600	-100	-400
Construction	105,900	107,300	126,900	-1,400	-21,000
Construction of Buildings	28,400	28,300	33,200	100	-4,800
Heavy & Civil Engineering	13,900	15,100	17,700	-1,200	-3,800
Specialty Trade Contractors	63,600	63,900	76,000	-300	-12,400
Manufacturing	236,100	238,200	248,900	-2,100	-12,800
Durable Goods	129,400	130,800	137,800	-1,400	-8,400
Primary Metal & Fabricated Metal Products	34,500	34,400	34,300	100	200
Computer & Electronic Products, Electrical Equip., Appliance & Component	18,900	18,900	18,800	0	100
Transportation Equipment	33,800	33,800	33,600	0	200
Nondurable Goods	106,700	107,400	111,100	-700	-4,400
Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products	18,900	18,900	19,000	0	-100
Textile Mills, Textile Mills Products & Apparel	25,300	25,400	29,000	-100	-3,700
Petroleum, Coal Products & Chemical	21,400	21,400	21,700	0	-300
Plastics & Rubber Products	20,200	20,200	20,300	0	-100
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	371,700	373,600	385,700	-1,900	-14,000
Wholesale Trade	70,700	71,400	73,300	-700	-2,600
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	39,800	40,100	40,600	-300	-800
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	21,100	21,000	21,400	100	-300
Retail Trade	234,300	234,700	244,700	-400	-10,400
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	31,000	31,000	30,600	0	400
Food & Beverage Stores	42,700	42,600	42,700	100	0
Health & Personal Care Stores	16,500	16,200	15,900	300	600
Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores	27,200	26,600	27,700	600	-500
General Merchandise Stores	53,000	52,000	51,100	1,000	1,900
Transportation, Warehouse & Utilities	66,700	67,500	67,700	-800	-1,000
Utilities	12,300	12,200	11,900	100	400
Transportation & Warehousing	54,400	55,300	55,800	-900	-1,400
Information	27,500	27,400	27,700	100	-200
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	6,900	6,900	6,900	0	0
Telecommunications	13,200	13,100	12,700	100	500
Financial Activities	107,200	107,300	107,200	-100	0
Finance & Insurance	76,000	76,100	76,800	-100	-800
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	37,300	37,300	39,300	0	-2,000
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	31,200	31,200	30,400	0	800

Note: Due to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics restrictions, some industry employment estimates published in prior years will no longer be available. Monthly estimates for metropolitan areas with a population less than 50,000 will not be published; therefore, data for the Sumter MSA will not be available.

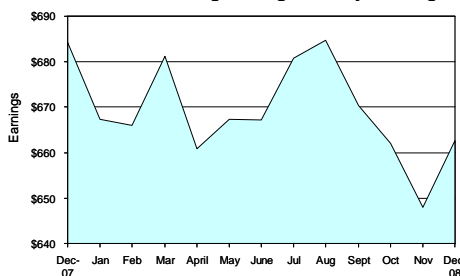
Statewide Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment (continued from previous page)

Industry	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	Net Change From:	
	2008	2008	2007	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007
Professional and Business Services	213,100	221,600	227,000	-8,500	-13,900
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	73,600	74,700	75,600	-1,100	-2,000
Architectural, Engineering & Related Services	21,000	21,000	20,800	0	200
Management of Companies & Enterprises	15,400	15,600	15,500	-200	-100
Administrative & Support, Waste Mgt. & Remediation Svcs	124,100	131,300	135,900	-7,200	-11,800
Administrative & Support Services	115,400	122,800	126,100	-7,400	-10,700
Employment Services	49,500	53,700	59,200	-4,200	-9,700
Services to Buildings & Dwellings	33,000	34,000	33,500	-1,000	-500
Educational and Health Services	209,500	209,400	205,300	100	4,200
Health Care & Social Assistance	172,900	173,500	171,900	-600	1,000
Ambulatory Health Care Services	69,300	69,200	67,300	100	2,000
Hospitals	42,000	42,300	41,400	-300	600
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	36,300	36,300	35,600	0	700
Leisure and Hospitality	202,600	208,900	208,200	-6,300	-5,600
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	26,000	26,800	25,100	-800	900
Amusement, Gambling & Recreation	19,600	20,200	19,900	-600	-300
Accommodation & Food Services	176,600	182,100	183,100	-5,500	-6,500
Accommodation	26,500	26,500	29,700	0	-3,200
Food Services & Drinking Places	150,100	155,600	153,400	-5,500	-3,300
Other Services (except Public Administration)	73,200	75,000	73,000	-1,800	200
Repair & Maintenance	17,000	18,100	18,000	-1,100	-1,000
Personal & Laundry Services	18,200	17,900	17,700	300	500
Total Government	355,900	355,900	346,500	0	9,400
Federal Government	30,000	29,900	30,200	100	-200
State Government	100,900	101,600	100,400	-700	500
State Government Education	47,800	48,100	46,800	-300	1,000
Local Government	225,000	224,400	215,900	600	9,100
Local Government Education	117,800	118,000	114,400	-200	3,400

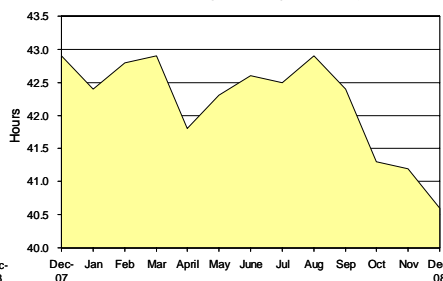
December 2008 Average Hours and Earnings

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings (\$)			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings (\$)		
	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007
Manufacturing	662.59	648.08	684.26	40.6	41.2	42.9	16.32	15.73	15.95
Durable Goods	682.68	657.20	717.10	41.2	42.4	45.3	16.57	15.50	15.83
Nondurable Goods	641.20	635.60	642.79	40.0	39.7	39.9	16.03	16.01	16.11

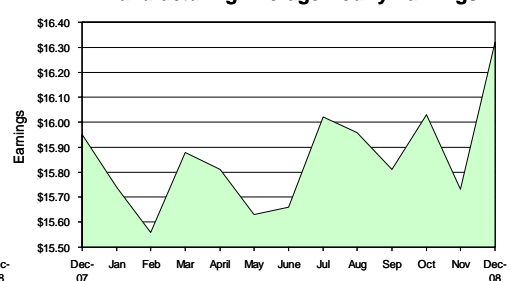
Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings



Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours



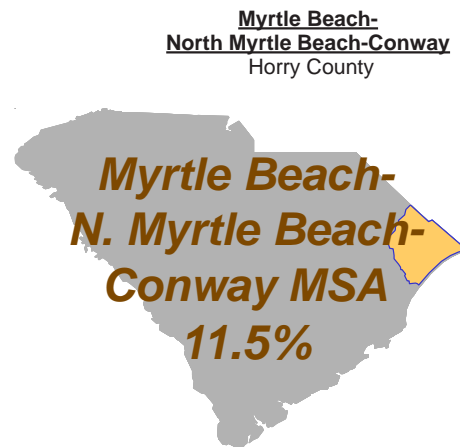
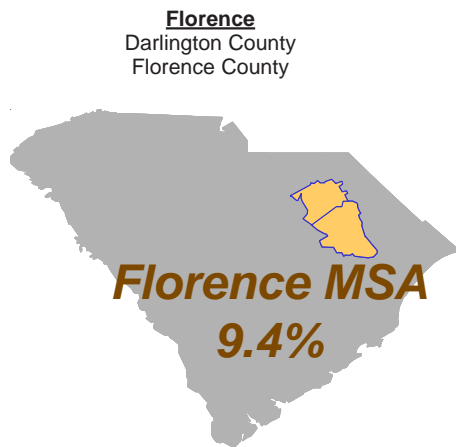
Manufacturing Average Hourly Earnings



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in the Major Metropolitan Areas December 2008

Industry	Florence			Myrtle Beach		
	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007
Total Nonagricultural Employment	91,000	91,700	91,500	118,000	121,000	123,200
Total Private	73,400	74,100	74,100	103,100	106,100	108,500
Goods Producing	16,900	17,100	18,000	16,000	16,200	17,100
Service Providing	74,100	74,600	73,500	102,000	104,800	106,100
Private Service Providing	56,500	57,000	56,100	87,100	89,900	91,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	16,800	17,000	17,600	24,000	24,200	25,300
Retail Trade				20,500	20,600	21,200
Leisure & Hospitality				28,200	30,000	31,700
Accommodations & Food Services				23,000	24,500	25,400
Food Services & Drinking Places				18,900	19,700	18,000
Total Government	17,600	17,600	17,400	14,900	14,900	14,700
Federal Government	900	900	900	600	600	600
State Government	3,900	3,900	3,700	3,200	3,200	3,300
Local Government	12,800	12,800	12,800	11,100	11,100	10,800

December 2008 Unemployment Rates for Metropolitan Statistical Areas



Palmetto Progress . . . News on Job Creation in South Carolina's Economy

Orangeburg County — A Canadian-based aluminum tube and fabricated aluminum manufacturer announced it will open a 60,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Orangeburg. Triumph Tube plans to invest \$3.5 million and generate 40 new jobs over the next five years. Orangeburg will be the company's flagship and U.S. headquarters. Triumph Tube will distribute its products through the Orangeburg facility, where it will manufacture drawn tubing and fabricated aluminum products. Examples of cold-drawn tubing include flag poles, high-end bolts on shipping vessels, shovels, ski and tent poles.

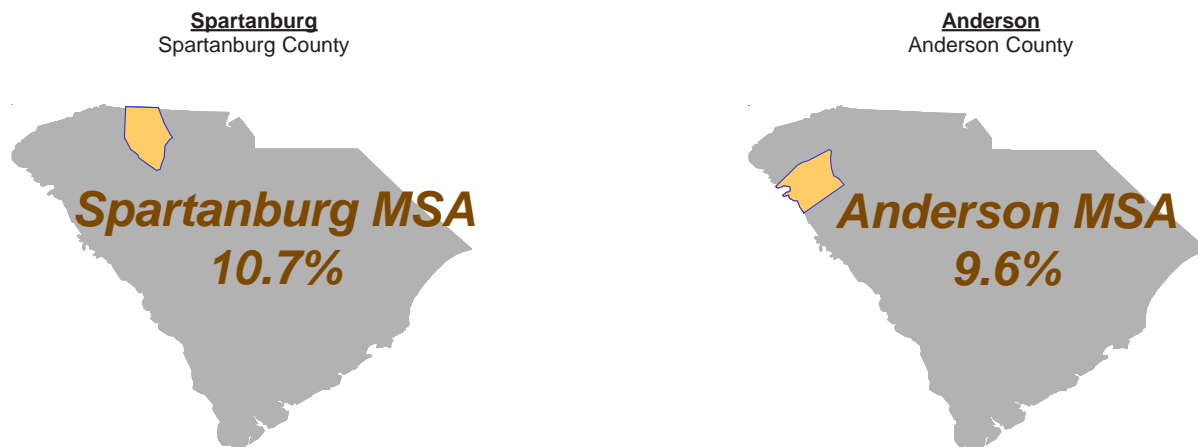
The company's market segments include military contractors, sporting goods, automotive and transport, medical and distribution. Operations are scheduled to begin around April. (*The Times & Democrat*)

Greenville County — South Korea's Samsung Group is expected to hire 1,000 workers over five years, at a new customer service center in Mauldin scheduled to open in May. Most of the employees will be customer service representatives. Samsung plans to hire 300 at first, and up to 1,000 over five years. (*The Greenville News*)

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in the Major Metropolitan Areas December 2008

Industry	Spartanburg			Anderson		
	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007
Total Nonagricultural Employment	126,300	126,700	126,900	62,600	63,100	64,300
Total Private	105,900	106,500	107,500	50,100	50,500	51,800
Goods Producing	34,500	34,300	34,900	16,200	16,300	17,000
Service Providing	91,800	92,400	92,000	46,400	46,800	47,300
Private Service Providing	71,400	72,200	72,600	33,900	34,200	34,800
Manufacturing	26,400	26,500	27,300	12,800	12,800	13,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	26,700	26,300	26,700	11,900	11,900	12,300
Retail Trade	13,400	13,300	13,900	8,400	8,400	8,700
Total Government	20,400	20,200	19,400	12,500	12,600	12,500
Federal Government	500	500	500	300	300	300
State Government	3,800	3,800	3,900	2,100	2,200	2,200
Local Government	16,100	15,900	15,000	10,100	10,100	10,000

December 2008 Unemployment Rates for Metropolitan Statistical Areas



Greenville County - W.W. Grainger, Inc. intends to invest \$27 million at its Fountain Inn distribution center and hire up to 250 people in the next five years. The Illinois-based company uses the 1.1 million-square-foot center to ship office maintenance products and janitorial supplies throughout the East Coast. Currently, it houses 100,000 products, but that number will be boosted to 350,000 after the company retrofits its building, said spokesman Mike McGrew. Opportunities will become available as Grainger adds racks and conveyor systems, as well as modifies its fire protection and HVAC systems and expands its parking lot. (www.scbizmag.com)

York County— C.M. Steel, Inc., an affiliate of Charlotte-based SteelFab, is moving its corporate headquarters to York County. The \$7 million investment is expected to bring 85 jobs to the area. C.M. Steel, Inc. is a steel manufacturer for commercial and industrial buildings. The company is expanding its manufacturing operations and plans to relocate its corporate headquarters to York County. C.M. Steel, Inc. was founded in 1985, and provides steel products and services for the construction industry. In South Carolina, it has offices in Charleston, Columbia, Florence, and Lugoff. (www.scbizmag.com)

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in the Major Metropolitan Areas December 2008

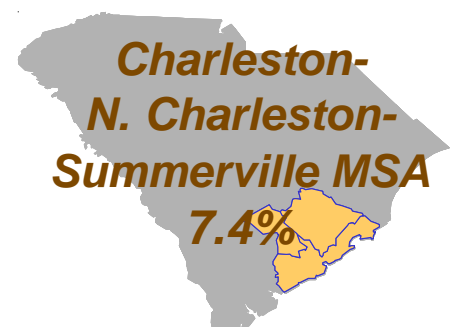
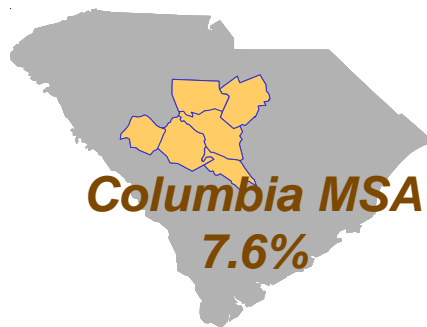
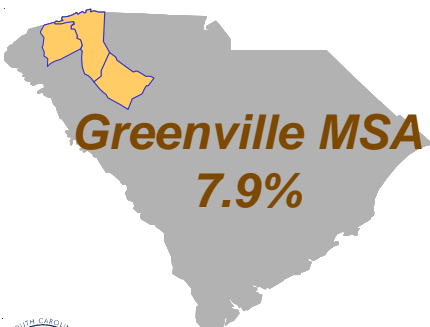
Industry	Greenville			Columbia			Charleston		
	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007
Total Nonagricultural Employment	319,500	322,800	324,300	365,800	367,900	373,500	294,800	297,000	300,000
Total Private	274,700	278,000	280,300	284,400	286,600	293,400	238,200	240,300	243,300
Goods Producing	56,800	57,500	60,400	49,300	49,400	53,300	42,200	42,500	44,000
Service Providing	262,700	265,300	263,900	316,500	318,500	320,200	252,600	254,500	256,000
Private Service Providing	217,900	220,500	219,900	235,100	237,200	240,100	196,000	197,800	199,300
Natural Res., Mining & Construction	17,100	17,600	19,300	18,600	18,600	21,900	20,500	20,700	21,600
Manufacturing	39,700	39,900	41,100	30,700	30,800	31,400	21,700	21,800	22,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	67,600	67,900	68,900	68,600	68,500	71,600	59,400	59,300	60,700
Wholesale Trade	14,100	14,200	15,000	16,800	16,900	17,200	8,700	8,700	8,900
Retail Trade	40,200	40,300	40,400	39,200	38,900	41,600	37,900	37,800	38,900
Food & Beverage Stores				5,900	5,900	5,900	8,800	8,800	8,700
General Merchandise Stores				8,800	8,700	9,200	7,800	7,500	7,800
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	13,300	13,400	13,500	12,600	12,700	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,900
Information	6,400	6,400	6,500	6,200	6,200	6,200	5,200	5,200	5,100
Financial Activities	14,400	14,300	14,400	31,500	31,300	31,300	14,800	14,800	14,600
Credit Intermediation & Related Act.				8,000	8,100	8,400			
Professional & Business Services	53,700	55,500	55,300	39,000	41,100	42,600	40,700	41,700	41,300
Admin., Supp., Waste Mgt & Rem. Svc.	32,300	33,500	35,200	20,900	21,700	23,600	24,300	24,700	24,400
Educational & Health Services	32,200	32,100	31,400	45,400	45,300	42,900	31,400	31,400	30,600
Health Care & Social Assistance	23,100	23,000	22,200						
Leisure & Hospitality	31,100	31,600	31,100	30,100	30,400	31,400	32,900	33,500	35,200
Accommodations & Food Services							28,400	28,900	31,000
Food Services & Drinking Places				24,900	25,200	25,400	24,700	24,900	24,700
Other Services (except Pub. Adm.)	12,500	12,700	12,300	14,300	14,400	14,100	11,600	11,900	11,800
Total Government	44,800	44,800	44,000	81,400	81,300	80,100	56,600	56,700	56,700
Federal Government	2,200	2,200	2,200	9,900	9,800	9,500	8,100	8,100	8,200
State Government	10,700	10,700	10,600	33,800	34,000	34,400	21,200	21,300	22,100
Local Government	31,900	31,900	31,200	37,700	37,500	36,200	27,300	27,300	26,400

December 2008 Unemployment Rates for Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Greenville
Greenville County
Laurens County
Pickens County

Columbia
Calhoun County
Fairfield County
Kershaw County
Lexington County
Richland County
Saluda County

Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville
Berkeley County
Charleston County
Dorchester County



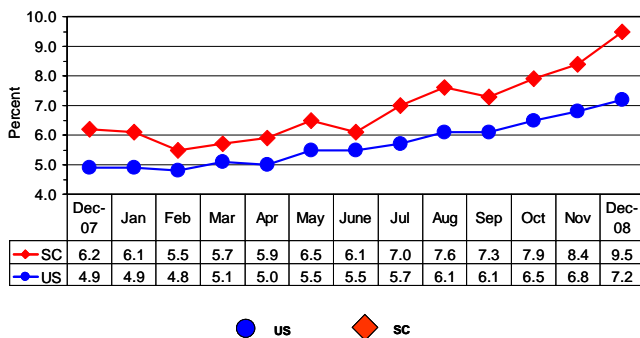
Estimated Number of Manufacturing Production Workers December 2008

Industry	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Net Change From:	
				Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007
Manufacturing	179,600	181,100	189,900	-1,500	-10,300
Durable Goods	95,900	97,300	104,700	-1,400	-8,800
Nondurable Goods	83,700	83,800	85,200	-100	-1,500

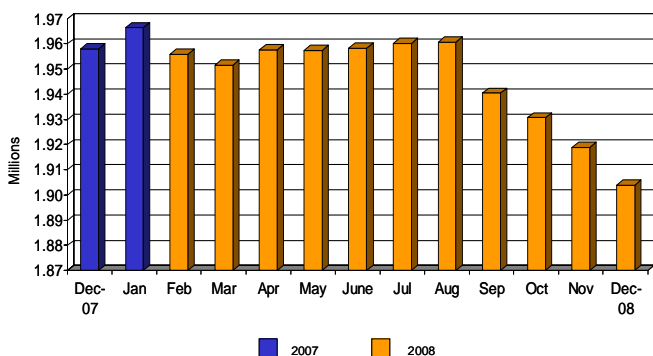
Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment December 2008

Industry	Dec. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007	Net Change From:	
				Nov. 2008	Dec. 2007
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,903,900	1,918,900	1,958,100	-15,000	-54,200
Construction	105,900	107,400	127,000	-1,500	-21,100
Manufacturing	236,200	238,600	249,000	-2,400	-12,800
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	366,200	369,800	380,100	-3,600	-13,900
Retail Trade	229,300	231,600	239,600	-2,300	-10,300
Information	27,600	27,500	27,800	100	-200
Financial Activities	107,600	107,300	107,700	300	-100
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	32,000	31,800	31,300	200	700
Professional and Business Services	212,200	219,000	226,100	-6,800	-13,900
Educational and Health Services	208,900	208,400	204,700	500	4,200
Leisure and Hospitality	211,900	212,500	217,500	-600	-5,600
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	28,300	27,100	27,300	1,200	1,000
Accommodation & Food Services	183,600	185,400	190,200	-1,800	-6,600
Other Services	74,000	75,500	73,800	-1,500	200
Government	349,200	348,600	339,800	600	9,400
Federal Government	29,800	29,900	30,000	-100	-200
State Government	99,300	99,300	98,800	0	500
Local Government	220,100	219,400	211,000	700	9,100

US & SC Unemployment Rates
December 2007 through December 2008



SC Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment
December 2007 through December 2008



The **South Carolina Workforce TRENDS** is a monthly publication of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, Labor Market Information Department.

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GLOSSARY

Benchmark—A statistical technique applied to annual data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year, due to sampling error and statistical modeling.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)—BLS is part of the U.S. Department of Labor and functions as the principal data-gathering agency of the federal government in the field of labor economics. BLS collects, processes, analyzes and disseminates data relating to employment, unemployment, the labor force, productivity, prices, family expenditures, wages, industrial relations, and occupational safety and health.

Employment—A count of all persons who worked full or part-time or received pay from a nonagricultural employer for any part of the pay period that included the 12th day of the month. Because this count comes from a survey of employers, persons who work for two different companies would be counted twice. Therefore, nonfarm payroll employment is really a count of the number of jobs, rather than the number of persons employed. Persons may receive pay from a job if they are temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, vacations, or a labor-management dispute. This count is based on where the jobs are located, regardless of where the workers reside, and is sometimes referred to as employment "by place of work." Nonfarm payroll employment data are collected and compiled by the Current Employment Statistics (CES) Survey.

Labor Market Information (LMI)—LMI is a body of knowledge that describes the nature, characteristics, and operation of those mechanisms, institutions, and participants involved in the matching of labor supply with demand. LMI is made up of a variety of economic, social, and demographic information. The information describes current conditions and forecasts conditions at a future date. LMI is comprised of population data, labor force data, occupational data, general economic trends, and career data. LMI information can be used to determine policy and program needs, to allocate resources, and to establish program performance standards.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment—An estimate of all part- and full-time wage and salary employees who worked during, or received pay from the pay period that included the 12th day of the month. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work.

Seasonal Adjustment—A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to seasonal events, such as changes in the weather, major holidays, shifts in production schedules, harvest times, and the opening and closing of schools.

Unemployment—An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week that includes the 12th day of the month.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)—The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 provides the framework for a unique national workforce development system designed to meet the needs of both the nation's businesses and the needs of job seekers or those who want to further their careers. South Carolina has 12 Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA). The Act requires that each local workforce investment area establish a One-Stop Delivery System including at least one full-service or comprehensive one-stop career center. The full-service one-stop career center must have universal access, including a host of mandatory human services, employment related programs and a partnership, inclusive of each mandatory program that exists in the local community.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept of Labor

TECHNICAL NOTES

South Carolina Workforce Trends is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary while all previous data are subject to revision. Industries are classified according to the *North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)*. All estimates

are projected from a first quarter 2007 benchmark.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work. Therefore, these data are not strictly comparable with the labor force data which represent persons by place of residence. Excluded from wage and salary estimates are proprietors, self-employed workers, private household employees, and unpaid family workers. A small percentage of wage and salary workers cannot be allocated to specific counties because of the nature of their jobs. Therefore, county data will not add to state totals.

Production worker estimates include full and part-time employees working within manufacturing industries. Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and are affected by such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

Labor force data are adjusted to the Current Population Survey benchmark, and represent employment and unemployment by place of residence. These data are not comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series. Workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. Total employment in the labor force also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, and self-employed. The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing total unemployment by the labor force, and is expressed as a percent. Because of the conceptual differences stated above, total employment may in some instances be lower than nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

**EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION
Statewide Workforce Centers**

Abbeville
353 Highway 28 Bypass
Abbeville, SC 29620
(864) 459-5486

Aiken
1571 Richland Avenue, East
Aiken, SC 29802
(803) 641-7640

Anderson
309 West Whitner Street
Anderson, SC 29622
(864) 226-6273

Barnwell
248 Wall Street
Barnwell, SC 29812
(803) 259-7116

Beaufort
164 Castlerock Road
Beaufort, SC 29906
(843) 524-3351

Bennettsville
Highway 9-W Cheraw Hwy
Bennettsville, SC 29512
(843) 479-4081

Camden
205 East DeKalb Street
Camden, SC 29020
(803) 432-5153

Charleston
176 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC 29403
(843) 953-8400

Chester
764 Wilson Street
Chester, SC 29706
(803) 377-8147

Clinton
18 Hazel Drive
Clinton, SC 29325
(864) 833-0142

Coastal
200-A Victory Lane
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 234-9675

Columbia
700 Taylor Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 737-5627

Florence
1558 West Evans Street
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 669-4271

Gaffney
133 Wilmac Road
Gaffney, SC 29342
(864) 489-3112

Georgetown
2704 Highmarket Street
Georgetown, SC 29442
(843) 546-8581

Greenville
706 Pendleton Street
Greenville, SC 29602
(864) 242-3531

Greenwood
519 Monument Street
Greenwood, SC 29648
(864) 223-1681

Hampton
12 Walnut Street
Hampton, SC 29924
(803) 943-3291

Hartsville
1319 South Fourth Street
Hartsville, SC 29551
(843) 332-1554

Kingstree
530 Martin Luther King Jr.
Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 354-7436

Lancaster
705 North White Street
Lancaster, SC 29720
(803) 285-6966

Lexington
714 South Lake Drive,
Suite 140
Lexington, SC 29071
(803) 359-6131

Liberty
317 Summit Drive
Liberty, SC 29657
(864) 843-9512

Marion
2413 East Highway 76
Marion, SC 29571
(843) 423-6900

Moncks Corner
107 East Main Street
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
(843) 761-4400

Newberry
833 Main Street
Newberry, SC 29108
(803) 276-2110

Orangeburg
1804 Joe S. Jeffords Highway
Orangeburg, SC 29116
(803) 534-3336

Ridgeland
7774 West Main Street
Ridgeland, SC 29936
(843) 726-3750

Rock Hill
1228 Fincher Road
Rock Hill, SC 29731
(803) 328-3881

Seneca
11091 Radio Station Road
Seneca, SC 29679
(864) 882-5638

Spartanburg
364 South Church Street (ES)
440 South Church Street (UI)
Spartanburg, SC 29304
(864) 573-7525 ES
(864) 573-7231 UI

Summerville
2885 West 5th North Street
Summerville, SC 29484
(843) 821-0695

Sumter
29 East Calhoun Street
Sumter, SC 29151
(803) 773-7359

Union
440 Duncan Highway
Union, SC 29379
(864) 427-5672

Walterboro
101 Mable T. Willis Blvd
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 538-8980

Winnsboro
1009 Kincaid Bridge Road
Winnsboro, SC 29180
(803) 635-2292



**Sites of Interest
on the Internet**

**SC Employment Security
Commission**
www.sces.org

**SC Labor Market
Information**
www.sces.org/lmi

SC Government
www.sc.gov

Federal Jobs
www.fedworld.gov

Career Voyages
www.careervoyages.gov

Job Bank USA
www.jobbankusa.com

Career One-Stop
www.careeronestop.org

Career Builder
www.careerbuilder.com

Job Fair Info
www.jobexpo.com
www.cfgcareerfairs.com

Teaching Jobs
www.k-12jobs.com

Former Military
militarytransitiontimes.com
www.acap.army.mil

Jobs for Women
www.womenforhire.com

**Hispanic Alliance &
Career Enhancement**
www.hace-usa.org

This issue reflects labor market information for DECEMBER 2008, the most current data available.

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2009 Palmetto Workforce Partnership Workshops and Awards Luncheon



Don't miss this exciting event where businesses are recognized as true leaders in workforce development, and for their strong impact on their communities and the state economy.

This year's Palmetto Workforce Partnership Awards (PWWA) Ceremony and Workshops will take place on **Wednesday, April 8, 2009**, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln Street in Columbia.

The opening session begins at 9:15, with workshops following. The luncheon and awards ceremony begins at noon. Seating for the luncheon and workshops is limited.



2009 PWWA Conference
South Carolina
Employers-Moving Us Where We Need to Go



Palmetto Workforce Partnership Awards Workshop and Awards Luncheon Registration Form

April 8th, 2009
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

Yes, I will be attending the Palmetto Workforce Partnership Awards Workshops and Awards Luncheon.

I understand that online registration is required to reserve seating; in addition to mailing a payment of \$40.00 to:
Mike Williams, SCEC Conference, PO Box 602, Columbia, SC 29202

of Registrants: # _____
of Registrants X \$40 = \$ _____

Yes, we will be attending the workshops and the awards luncheon.
 Yes, we will be attending the awards luncheon only.

Names of those attending:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Business/Institution: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Fax Number: _____
Email Address: _____

Submit Reset

Online registration is required to reserve seating, in addition to mailing a registration fee.

Visit www.sces.org and select State Employer Council from the left-hand menu.