



College Grads Face Challenging Job Market

Finding a job was much easier for Bridget Herman's sister.

The College of Charleston senior watched her sister secure a job in business development shortly after graduating from an Ohio university of similar size and prominence. Both majored in liberal arts: history for her sister and English for herself.

But Herman hasn't had the same luck in finding an entry-level job writing for a major magazine or arts-focused publication. Though she has a respectable amount of experience, the reception from hiring editors hasn't been warm since she began applying for jobs in January.

"I'm surprised by how many people don't respond to me at all, even if there's a job open," she said.

To be fair, Herman is shooting for a job in the highly competitive media industry, where jobs these days are in

short supply because of declining advertising revenue. But a nationwide economic slowdown, which many are calling a recession, likely will make it tougher for spring graduates to find their first full-time jobs.

While not all industries are affected, some students will have to apply early and more often for open positions. They might have to broaden their search. And some students, such as Herman, will have to compromise, weighing stagnant salaries and a smaller supply of jobs against doing what they love.

Results of a nationwide survey pinpoint the crunch. Employers in the southern part of the country expect to hire only 1 percent more graduates than last year, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers. This region, which usually hires at or above the national average, now trails that figure by 7 percent.

The projected hiring rate marks a dramatic change from the double-digit gains the group recorded the previous four years. Until last fall, companies were gearing up for what was expected to be a record season for hiring, said Edwin Koc, the association's director of strategic and foundation research.

The last time companies opted to hire fewer college graduates was during the recession that began in the spring of 2001.

During tough economic times, employers may opt to pay current workers overtime instead of adding to their ranks, said Gary Crossley, a former area director with the state's Employment Security Commission who runs a Charleston-based consulting firm. They might turn to outsourcing or rely on temporary workers to fill an open position.

"(Graduating seniors') timing this year couldn't be worse, but that's not to say they're going to be up a creek without a paddle," he said.

Risky business majors

Sorting out which careers are in demand and which are not is a bit like taking the temperature of the economy as a whole.

A booming health care industry has created a desperate need for nurses and other medical professionals. Manufacturers and utility companies need young graduates to fill their ranks as retirements swell. And the local

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Julie Jackson, Ricardo Sanders and Victoria Bustamante make hors d'oeuvres during a class at the Culinary Institute of Charleston at Trident Technical College. This year's graduates face a tighter overall job market.



Trident Technical College students work on baking projects during a recent class. Charleston's tourism industry helps support demand for hospitality-trained workers, but college graduates with business degrees may find jobs scarcer this year than last.

Melissa Haneline/
The Post and Courier

Hot Prospects

The nation's 10 fastest-growing occupations:

1. Network systems and data communication analysts.
2. Personal and home care aides.
3. Home health aides.
4. Computer software engineers, applications.
5. Veterinary technologists and technicians.
6. Personal financial advisers.
7. Makeup artists, theatrical and performance.
8. Medical assistants.
9. Veterinarians.
10. Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

tourism industry creates a nearly perpetual stream of demand for hospitality workers, said Brian Almquist, Trident Technical College's director of career and employment services.

Computer technology jobs also are doing well, but supply is slowly catching up with demand in that industry, he added. "Companies could never get enough IT people, and now they are."

Education majors at the College of Charleston usually don't have problems securing a teaching job either, said Linda Robinson, the university's coordinator of recruiting programs.

But the economy's financial sector has taken a hard hit after several years of rapid expansion. The subprime mortgage crisis has rippled through the entire industry because the risky loans were resold to investors, along with other types of more stable loans such as auto loans, credit card debt and student loans.

As a result, the industry's woes have slowed demand for students who have a business background, who make up about a fourth of the nationwide graduating class, according to Koc's group.

In the past, business students had a reputation for finding jobs and making money the fastest. This year, those students likely will have to work harder than their classmates to secure employment after graduation.

"It puts more of a burden on the student to prove why (companies should hire them)," said Brent Stewart, director of The Citadel's career center. "We tell all our students that you have to be able to answer what skills you bring to the table."

About a third of Citadel graduates head off to jobs in the financial sector, working for companies such as

accounting firms, insurance providers and banks, Stewart said.

Students who are heading toward fields with lower demand should expect to see fewer job opportunities than their predecessors, which means they may need to tweak their job-hunting strategy.

"They may have to adjust their expectations of how many companies they are targeting," Robinson said. "They may have to broaden their reach and not concentrate on just a few jobs or a few opportunities."

Local temperature

Major local employers say the slower economic conditions haven't played a dominant role in their hiring projections this spring.

For Scana Corp., which owns South Carolina Electric & Gas Co., this spring's batch of new hires is tied more to the company's retirement rate than economic trends, said Linda Leslie, manager of work force planning and employment. This year, the utility company will hire what she describes as the "normal amount" of college graduates, most of whom studied engineering and accounting.

The same is true at Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Charleston, or SPAWAR, which is another major employer of recent college grads. Spokesman Lonnie Cowart said the agency plans to hire 100 graduates, or about 20 fewer than last year, based on their retirement projections.

Some media reports have suggested that retirement rates across the country have slowed amid the slumping economy as aging workers eye their recently reduced saving accounts, but it's tough to link those rates to local hiring trends.

Hiring at other local firms seems to be steady. Software-maker Blackbaud Inc. expects to hire about 70 graduates through the rest of the year, which matches the past two years.

Benefitfocus, which develops and sells health care-related software, will hire slightly more to keep up with the company's growth.

Lag time

During economic downturns, student behavior usually reflects that environment, Koc said. Graduate school application rates soar and students are more eager to take whatever job offers arise, he said.

But so far, this spring's batch of graduates hasn't shown signs of uncertainty beyond the usual nerves.

Graduate schools haven't seen a spike in applications from seniors at the College of Charleston and The

Citadel, according to spokesmen at each school.

And another national survey, also conducted by the employer's association, found that 75 percent of graduating seniors who had been offered a job this spring hadn't accepted it yet. That rate is what the group usually sees during periods of economic growth.

"You would think that, given the economic situation, students would be more aggressive in accepting offers," said Koc, noting that it might be too early in the downturn for such trends to appear. After all, it took an

entire year for hiring rates to reflect the most recent recession in 2001.

Still, Robinson said she doesn't see students giving up their career aspirations in the face of economic trouble. While they may have to work a bit harder than in the past, she said, upcoming graduates are targeting careers that would make them happy.

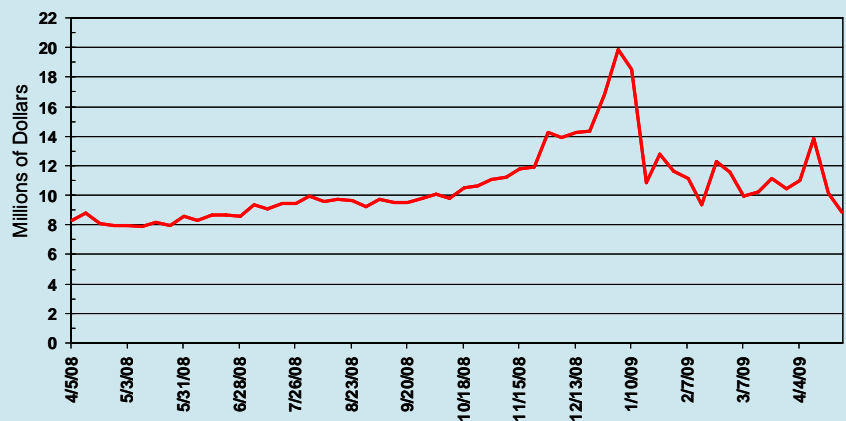
"Overall, that's good advice, because the economic situation can change," she said. "If you base your decision on what's happening on the economy, that can change in six months or a year."

*by Katy Stech, Business Reporter
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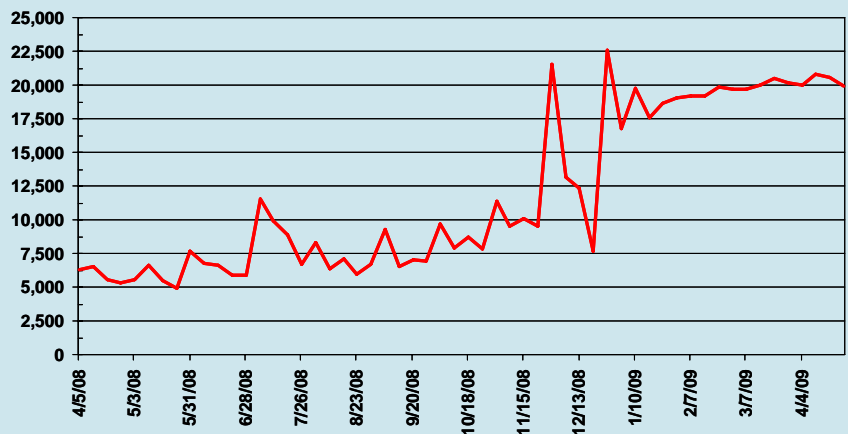
Unemployment insurance benefits are financial compensation for unemployed workers, distributed by state governments. Unemployment insurance is made possible by taxes paid by employers. Benefits must be earned. The purpose of Unemployment Insurance is to provide temporary assistance to workers who lose their jobs. At the same time, during severe recessions, Unemployment Insurance helps to stabilize the entire economy.

Unemployment insurance initial claims are a measurement of the number of jobless claims filed by individuals seeking to receive state jobless benefits. This number is watched closely by financial analysts because it provides insight into the direction of the economy. Higher initial claims positively correlate with a weakening economy, and lower initial claims correlate with a stonger economy.

SC Weekly Unemployment Insurance Benefits Paid April 2008 through April 2009



SC Weekly Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims April 2008 through April 2009





April 2009

Job losses continue to be large and widespread . . .

The national unemployment rate rose from 8.5% in March to 8.9% in April. The number of unemployed increased by 563,000 to 13.7 million in April. Over the past 12 months, the number of unemployed has risen by 6.0 million, and the unemployment rate has grown by 3.9% points. Unemployment rates rose in April for adult men (9.4%) and blacks (15.0%). The jobless rates for adult women (7.1%), teenagers (21.5%), whites (8.0%), and Hispanics (11.3%) were little changed over the month.

Regional Unemployment ...The West recorded the highest regional jobless rate, 9.7%, followed by the Midwest at 9.2%. The Northeast recorded the lowest rate at 7.9%. No region had a statistically significant rate change from a month earlier. Michigan again reported the highest jobless rate (12.9%). The states with the next highest rates were Oregon, 12.0; **South Carolina, 11.5%**; Rhode Island, 11.1%; California, 11.0%; North Carolina, 10.8%; Nevada, 10.6%; and Ohio, 10.2%. The Rhode Island and South Carolina rates were the highest on record for those states. North Dakota again registered the lowest unemployment rate, 4.0% in April.

Employment Declines...Total non-farm payroll employment continued to decline in April (-539,000). Since the recession began in December 2007, 5.7 million jobs have been lost. Manufacturing fell by 149,000 over the month. Transportation Equipment (-34,000), Fabricated Metal Products (-29,000), and Machinery (-22,000) accounted for more than half the decline. Since September 2008, Manufacturing has lost 1.2 million jobs.

Construction declined by 110,000 in April. Over the past 6 months, job losses in this industry have averaged 120,000 per month, compared with 46,000 per month from December 2007 through October 2008. Professional and Business Services lost 122,000 jobs. Half of the April decline occurred in Temporary Help Services. Retail Trade fell by 47,000. Department Stores (-14,000), Automobile Dealers (-9,000), and Building Material and Garden Supply Stores (-8,000) accounted for most of the decline. Wholesale Trade employment was down by 41,000 in April, with much of the decrease among Durable Goods wholesalers. Transportation and Warehousing declined by 38,000, with losses concentrated in Truck Transportation (-16,000) and Warehousing and Storage (-8,000). Financial Activities declined by 40,000. The Leisure and Hospitality industry lost 44,000 jobs in April. Health Care grew by 17,000. Job gains in Health Care have averaged 17,000 per month thus far in 2009, down from an average of 30,000 per month during 2008. Employment in Federal Government rose by 66,000, largely due to the hiring of temporary workers for Census 2010 preparatory work.

Average Hourly and Weekly Earnings...In April, the average workweek for production and non-supervisory workers on private non-farm payrolls was unchanged at 33.2 hours, seasonally adjusted. The manufacturing workweek increased by 0.2 hour to 39.6 hours. The average hourly earnings of production and non-supervisory workers on private non-farm payrolls was essentially unchanged. This followed a gain of 4 cents in March. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings increased by 3.2%, and average weekly earnings rose by 1.3%.

Producer Price Index (PPI) Increases...The Producer Price Index, which measures the cost of a basket of goods and services from the perspective of the seller, increased

0.3% in April, seasonally adjusted. This rise followed a 1.2% decrease in March and a 0.1% increase in February. At the earlier stages of processing, prices received by producers of intermediate goods moved down 0.5% following a 1.5% decrease a month earlier, and the crude goods index advanced 3.0% after declining 0.3% in March.

Consumer Prices Up...The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the average change in prices over time of goods and services from the purchaser's perspective, increased 0.2% in April, before seasonal adjustment. This index has fallen 0.7% over the last 12 months, due primarily to a 25.2% drop in energy prices. The year-over-year declines in March and April are the first since 1955.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI was unchanged in April after declining 0.1% in March. The energy index declined for the second straight month, falling 2.4% after declining 3.0% in March. The indexes for motor fuel, fuel oil, natural gas, and electricity all declined in April. The food index declined as well, falling 0.2% in April after a 0.1% decrease in March. Over the past year, the food index has risen 3.3% while the energy index has declined 25.2%. Offsetting the declines in the food and energy indexes was a 0.3% increase in the index for all items less food and energy. Over 40% of the increase was due to a second consecutive increase in the tobacco index. The index rose 9.3% in April as an increase in the federal excise tax on cigarettes went into effect. A larger increase in the index for medical care, an increase in the index for new vehicles, and an upturn in the lodging away from home index also contributed to the April increase. The index for all items less food and energy has risen 1.9% over the past year.

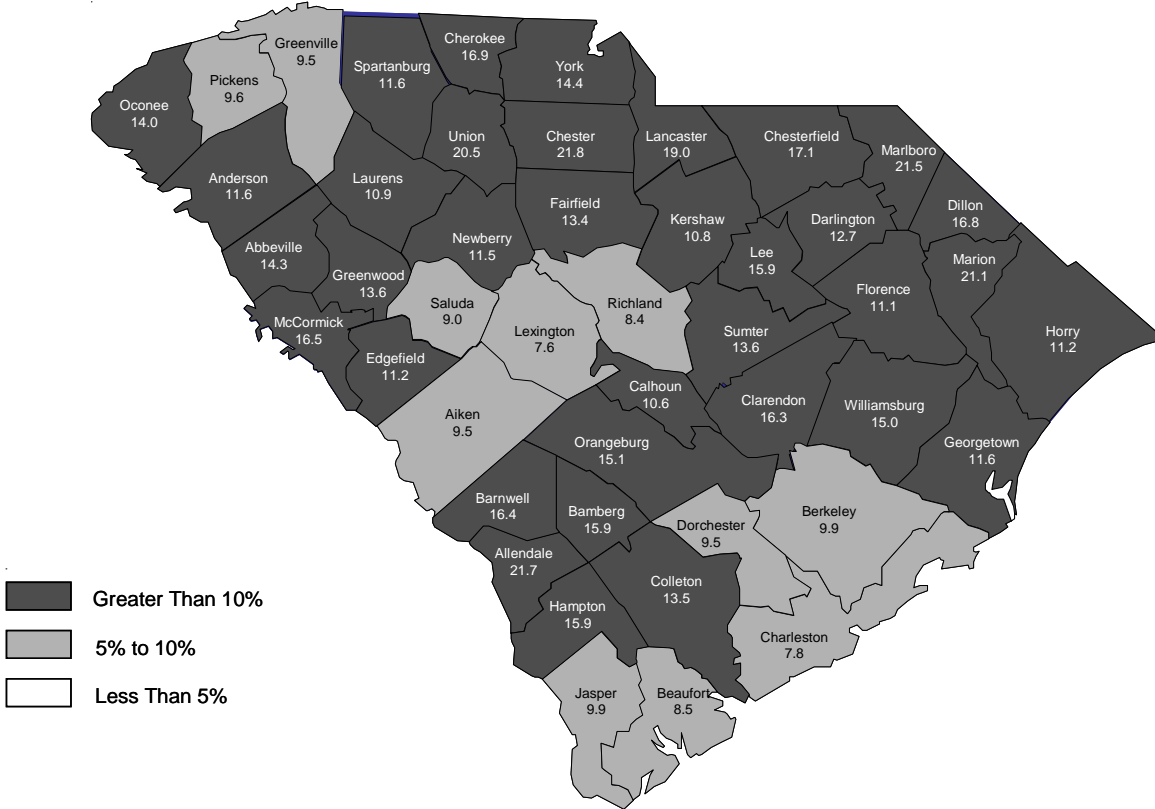
Sources:

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

edited by S.T. McLaughlin
and J. Moon

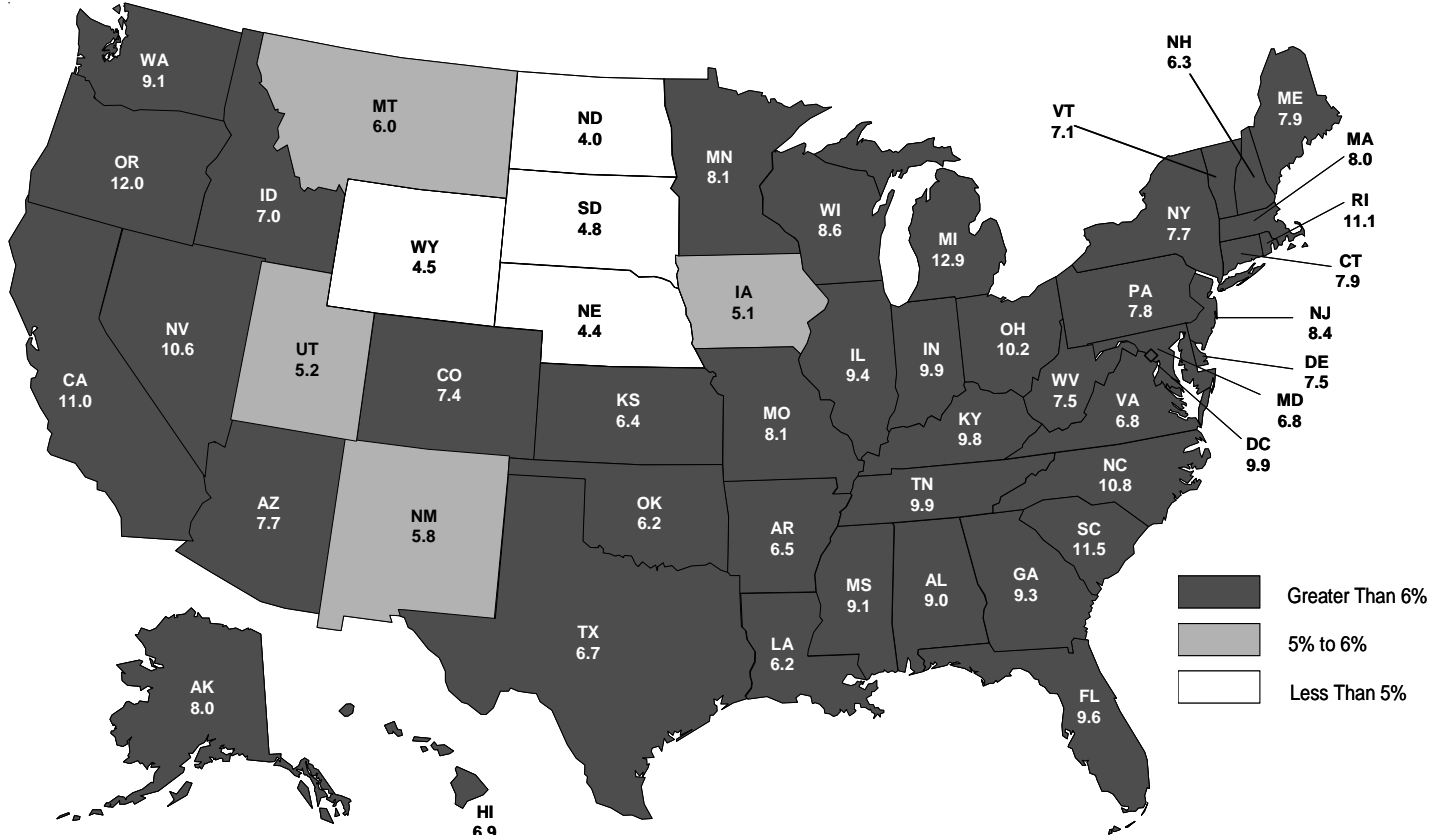
South Carolina Unemployment Rates by County

April 2009 State Unemployment Rate = 11.5%



United States Unemployment Rates by State

April 2009 National Unemployment Rate = 8.9%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

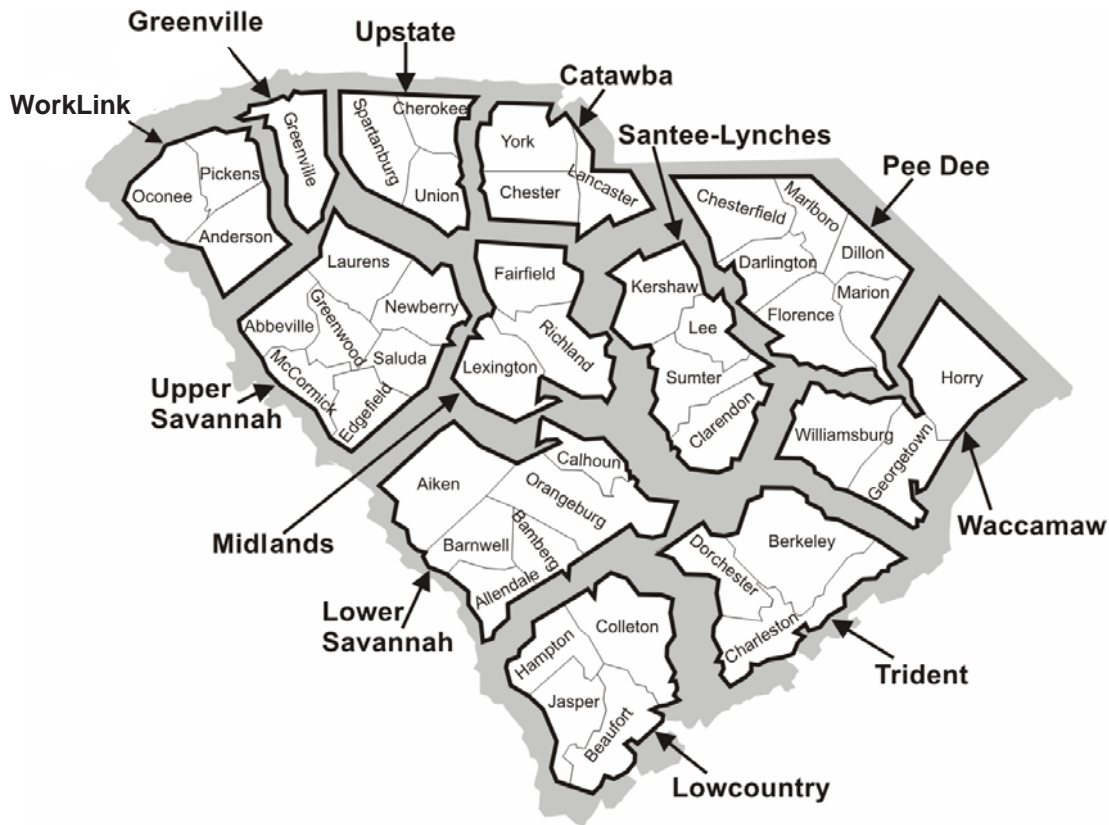


Labor Force and Unemployment by County and Metropolitan Area (MA) April 2009

County/MA	Labor Force			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008
Abbeville	11,640	11,488	11,305	1,668	1,621	699	14.3	14.1	6.2
Aiken	77,512	76,116	74,772	7,354	6,861	3,321	9.5	9.0	4.4
Allendale	3,351	3,348	3,260	727	744	465	21.7	22.2	14.3
Anderson MSA	88,546	87,515	84,949	10,294	10,326	4,370	11.6	11.8	5.1
Bamberg	6,180	6,256	6,227	982	1,112	544	15.9	17.8	8.7
Barnwell	9,041	9,014	8,736	1,483	1,533	743	16.4	17.0	8.5
Beaufort	63,249	62,737	63,802	5,345	5,377	2,476	8.5	8.6	3.9
Berkeley	81,466	80,164	79,153	8,073	8,098	3,765	9.9	10.1	4.8
Calhoun	7,185	7,165	6,881	765	785	359	10.6	11.0	5.2
Charleston	178,815	176,429	175,921	14,035	14,629	6,663	7.8	8.3	3.8
Cherokee	26,287	26,007	25,652	4,452	4,411	2,342	16.9	17.0	9.1
Chester	16,094	15,864	15,039	3,504	3,393	1,491	21.8	21.4	9.9
Chesterfield	19,313	19,289	18,365	3,312	3,418	1,301	17.1	17.7	7.1
Clarendon	12,641	12,472	12,244	2,062	1,975	972	16.3	15.8	7.9
Colleton	16,854	16,700	16,501	2,277	2,275	1,046	13.5	13.6	6.3
Darlington	32,686	32,800	31,108	4,163	4,414	2,252	12.7	13.5	7.2
Dillon	13,196	13,057	12,720	2,215	2,166	1,097	16.8	16.6	8.6
Dorchester	65,173	64,116	63,312	6,180	6,190	2,716	9.5	9.7	4.3
Edgefield	11,508	11,326	10,976	1,287	1,237	566	11.2	10.9	5.2
Fairfield	11,674	11,503	11,279	1,570	1,461	1,014	13.4	12.7	9.0
Florence	65,579	65,321	62,418	7,285	7,306	3,442	11.1	11.2	5.5
Georgetown	30,400	30,311	30,094	3,515	3,868	1,770	11.6	12.8	5.9
Greenville	229,958	228,325	224,077	21,786	21,862	9,478	9.5	9.6	4.2
Greenwood	30,373	29,850	30,463	4,131	3,874	1,826	13.6	13.0	6.0
Hampton	7,812	7,803	7,631	1,239	1,284	520	15.9	16.5	6.8
Horry/Myrtle Beach MSA	133,895	129,722	132,568	15,031	16,570	6,880	11.2	12.8	5.2
Jasper	10,101	10,034	10,116	1,003	1,022	481	9.9	10.2	4.8
Kershaw	31,219	30,994	29,780	3,365	3,313	1,484	10.8	10.7	5.0
Lancaster	30,173	29,915	29,238	5,724	5,696	2,903	19.0	19.0	9.9
Laurens	34,373	34,030	33,484	3,744	3,653	1,910	10.9	10.7	5.7
Lee	8,420	8,254	7,920	1,339	1,225	586	15.9	14.8	7.4
Lexington	135,581	135,058	132,189	10,309	10,564	4,928	7.6	7.8	3.7
McCormick	13,455	13,277	12,690	2,839	2,802	1,391	21.1	21.1	11.0
Marion	12,323	12,035	11,623	2,652	2,451	1,346	21.5	20.4	11.6
Marlboro	3,455	3,444	3,420	569	592	312	16.5	17.2	9.1
Newberry	18,546	18,507	18,341	2,133	2,249	1,023	11.5	12.2	5.6
Oconee	31,199	31,026	30,273	4,383	4,465	1,722	14.0	14.4	5.7
Orangeburg	40,237	40,148	40,726	6,062	6,340	3,001	15.1	15.8	7.4
Pickens	60,377	59,993	58,965	5,797	5,861	2,700	9.6	9.8	4.6
Richland	184,499	184,010	179,868	15,572	16,132	8,258	8.4	8.8	4.6
Saluda	9,417	9,390	9,136	844	870	427	9.0	9.3	4.7
Spartanburg MSA	141,654	139,657	136,504	16,478	16,131	7,284	11.6	11.6	5.3
Sumter MSA	42,794	42,193	42,964	5,829	5,573	2,972	13.6	13.2	6.9
Union	12,526	12,292	11,688	2,570	2,444	1,129	20.5	19.9	9.7
Williamsburg	15,613	15,514	15,081	2,339	2,389	1,352	15.0	15.4	9.0
York	110,134	108,285	105,867	15,912	14,857	5,868	14.4	13.7	5.5
Multi-County MSAs									
Charleston MSA	325,453	320,708	318,386	28,288	28,917	13,144	8.7	9.0	4.1
Columbia MSA	379,575	378,121	369,133	32,425	33,126	16,470	8.5	8.8	4.5
Florence MSA	98,265	98,121	93,526	11,448	11,720	5,694	11.7	11.9	6.1
Greenville MSA	324,708	322,348	316,526	31,327	31,376	14,088	9.6	9.7	4.5
South Carolina*	2,201.0	2,187.1	2,135.3	252.9	250.1	131.4	11.5	11.4	6.2
United States*	154,730	154,050	153,930	13,720	13,160	7,680	8.9	8.5	5.0

*Seasonally adjusted; in thousands

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Area (WIA) April 2009



WIA Areas	Apr. 2009	WIA Areas	Apr. 2009	WIA Areas	Apr. 2009
<u>CATAWBA WIA</u>	16.1	<u>MIDLANDS WIA</u>	8.3	<u>UPPER SAVANNAH WIA</u>	12.0
Chester County	21.8	Fairfield County	13.4	McCormick County	16.5
Lancaster County	19.0	Richland County	8.4	Abbeville County	14.3
York County	14.4	Lexington County	7.6	Greenwood County	13.6
				Newberry County	11.5
		<u>PEE DEE WIA</u>	14.4	Edgefield County	11.2
<u>GREENVILLE WIA</u>	9.5	Marlboro County	21.5	Laurens County	10.9
Greenville County	9.5	Marion County	21.1	Saluda County	9.0
		Chesterfield County	17.1		
		Dillon County	16.8	<u>UPSTATE WIA</u>	13.0
<u>LOWCOUNTRY WIA</u>	10.1	Darlington County	12.7	Union County	20.5
Hampton County	15.9	Florence County	11.1	Cherokee County	16.9
Colleton County	13.5			Spartanburg County	11.6
Jasper County	9.9	<u>SANTEE-LYNCHES WIA</u>	13.2		
Beaufort County	8.5	Clarendon County	16.3	<u>WACCAMAW WIA</u>	11.6
		Lee County	15.9	Williamsburg County	15.0
<u>LOWER SAVANNAH WIA</u>	12.1	Sumter County	13.6	Georgetown County	11.6
Allendale County	21.7	Kershaw County	10.8	Horry County	11.2
Barnwell County	16.4				
Bamberg County	15.9	<u>TRIDENT WIA</u>	8.7	<u>WORKLINK WIA</u>	11.4
Orangeburg County	15.1	Berkeley County	9.9	Oconee County	14.0
Calhoun County	10.6	Dorchester County	9.5	Anderson County	11.6
Aiken County	9.5	Charleston County	7.8	Pickens County	9.6

Statewide Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment April 2009

Industry				Net Change From:	
	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,861,400	1,851,700	1,950,000	9,700	-88,600
Total Private	1,513,600	1,504,700	1,599,100	8,900	-85,500
Goods Producing	325,900	328,200	364,000	-2,300	-38,100
Service Providing	1,535,500	1,523,500	1,586,000	12,000	-50,500
Private Service Providing	1,187,700	1,176,500	1,235,100	11,200	-47,400
Mining & Logging	4,200	4,200	4,400	0	-200
Construction	103,000	103,900	114,200	-900	-11,200
Construction of Buildings	26,500	26,700	29,500	-200	-3,000
Heavy & Civil Engineering	13,700	13,500	16,000	200	-2,300
Specialty Trade Contractors	62,800	63,700	68,700	-900	-5,900
Manufacturing	218,700	220,100	245,400	-1,400	-26,700
Durable Goods	120,600	121,500	137,000	-900	-16,400
Primary Metal & Fabricated Metal Products	33,200	33,300	33,500	-100	-300
Computer & Electronic Products, Electrical Equip., Appliance & Component	17,900	18,100	18,600	-200	-700
Transportation Equipment	30,600	30,700	31,300	-100	-700
Nondurable Goods	98,100	98,600	108,400	-500	-10,300
Food, Beverage & Tobacco Products	18,500	18,500	18,600	0	-100
Textile Mills, Textile Mills Products & Apparel	22,600	22,800	28,700	-200	-6,100
Petroleum, Coal Products & Chemical	20,500	20,400	21,500	100	-1,000
Plastics & Rubber Products	20,000	20,200	20,700	-200	-700
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	356,700	358,700	374,900	-2,000	-18,200
Wholesale Trade	66,500	67,800	71,400	-1,300	-4,900
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	33,600	34,500	37,900	-900	-4,300
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	20,800	20,700	20,700	100	100
Retail Trade	227,600	226,800	238,300	800	-10,700
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	28,700	28,800	29,900	-100	-1,200
Food & Beverage Stores	42,700	42,000	43,400	700	-700
Health & Personal Care Stores	15,800	15,900	15,500	-100	300
Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores	18,500	18,400	21,900	100	-3,400
General Merchandise Stores	46,100	46,300	49,900	-200	-3,800
Transportation, Warehouse & Utilities	62,600	64,100	65,200	-1,500	-2,600
Utilities	12,400	13,200	12,500	-800	-100
Transportation & Warehousing	50,200	50,900	52,700	-700	-2,500
Information	29,500	29,500	28,600	0	900
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	6,800	6,800	6,900	0	-100
Telecommunications	13,400	13,500	13,200	-100	200
Financial Activities	103,400	103,000	106,100	400	-2,700
Finance & Insurance	74,200	74,500	75,900	-300	-1,700
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	34,100	34,800	37,800	-700	-3,700
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	29,200	28,500	30,200	700	-1,000

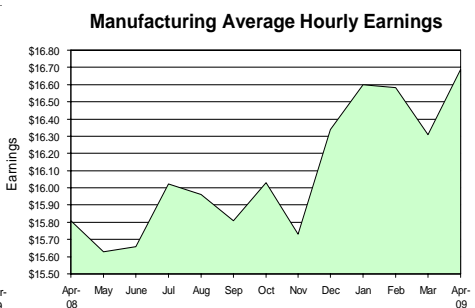
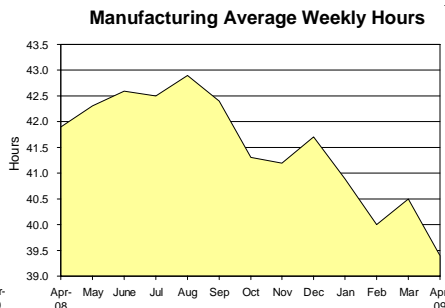
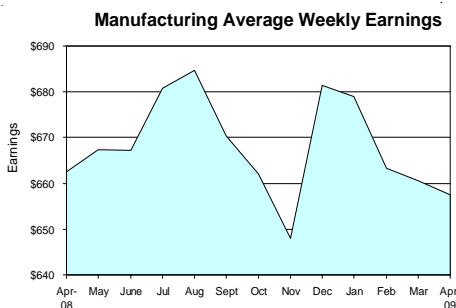
Note: Due to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics restrictions, some industry employment estimates published in prior years will no longer be available. Monthly estimates for metropolitan areas with a population less than 50,000 will not be published; therefore, data for the Sumter MSA will not be available.

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

Industry	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Net Change From:	
				Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008
Professional and Business Services	211,800	207,000	224,400	4,800	-12,600
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	76,100	75,800	77,400	300	-1,300
Architectural, Engineering & Related Services	20,900	20,800	20,600	100	300
Management of Companies & Enterprises	15,400	15,400	15,500	0	-100
Administrative & Support, Waste Mgt. & Remediation Svcs	120,300	115,800	131,500	4,500	-11,200
Administrative & Support Services	108,300	105,600	120,300	2,700	-12,000
Employment Services	44,000	44,200	53,800	-200	-9,800
Services to Buildings & Dwellings	33,000	31,000	33,300	2,000	-300
Educational and Health Services	207,700	207,300	206,000	400	1,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	173,100	170,800	171,800	2,300	1,300
Ambulatory Health Care Services	68,900	67,700	66,600	1,200	2,300
Hospitals	42,900	42,700	42,600	200	300
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	36,200	36,000	35,700	200	500
Leisure and Hospitality	206,400	199,700	223,400	6,700	-17,000
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	29,200	27,500	29,400	1,700	-200
Amusement, Gambling & Recreation	23,600	22,900	24,000	700	-400
Accommodation & Food Services	177,200	172,200	194,000	5,000	-16,800
Accommodation	27,600	26,100	30,700	1,500	-3,100
Food Services & Drinking Places	149,600	146,100	163,300	3,500	-13,700
Other Services (except Public Administration)	72,200	71,300	71,700	900	500
Repair & Maintenance	17,300	16,900	17,500	400	-200
Personal & Laundry Services	18,100	17,900	17,800	200	300
Total Government	347,800	347,000	350,900	800	-3,100
Federal Government	30,700	30,600	30,000	100	700
State Government	100,600	100,500	101,200	100	-600
State Government Education	45,900	45,800	45,700	100	200
Local Government	216,500	215,900	219,700	600	-3,200
Local Government Education	111,900	112,300	113,500	-400	-1,600

April 2009 Average Hours and Earnings

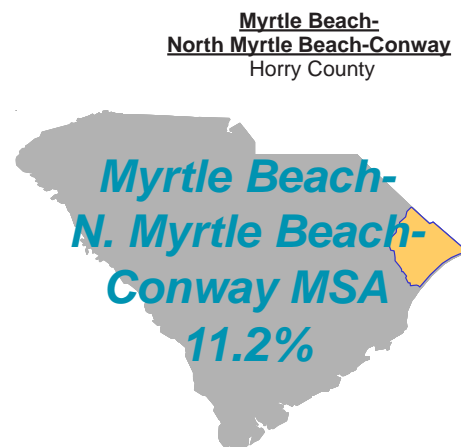
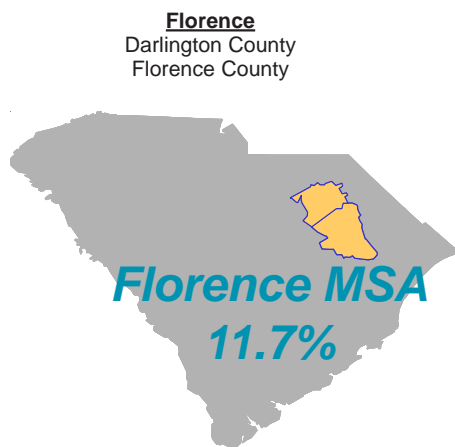
Industry	Average Weekly Earnings (\$)			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings (\$)		
	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008
Manufacturing	657.59	660.56	662.44	39.4	40.5	41.9	16.69	16.31	15.81
Durable Goods	676.09	682.23	673.57	41.2	42.8	43.4	16.41	15.94	15.52
Nondurable Goods	637.67	636.72	646.38	37.4	37.9	39.9	17.05	16.8	16.2



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in the Major Metropolitan Areas April 2009

Industry	Florence			Myrtle Beach		
	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008
Total Nonagricultural Employment	86,900	87,300	88,600	120,200	115,100	127,800
Total Private	70,300	70,500	71,500	104,500	99,500	112,500
Goods Producing	15,700	15,800	17,300	12,500	12,600	14,200
Service Providing	71,200	71,500	71,300	107,700	102,500	113,600
Private Service Providing	54,600	54,700	54,200	92,000	86,900	98,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	16,900	17,000	17,400	26,000	26,200	26,700
Retail Trade				21,500	21,300	21,700
Leisure & Hospitality				32,300	29,300	36,200
Accommodations & Food Services				26,300	23,800	29,500
Food Services & Drinking Places				15,400	14,800	19,400
Total Government	16,600	16,800	17,100	15,700	15,600	15,300
Federal Government	700	700	800	600	600	600
State Government	3,300	3,400	3,600	3,600	3,500	3,500
Local Government	12,600	12,700	12,700	11,500	11,500	11,200

April 2009 Unemployment Rates for Metropolitan Statistical Areas



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

Laurens County — American Titanium Works plans to invest \$422 million to build a titanium mill that will employ more than 300 people in Laurens County. News of American Titanium Works' investment in the Upstate also shines a positive light on Clemson's International Center for Automotive Research, where the company plans to put a 35,000-square-foot research facility. The project also offers hope that other industries that use titanium in their processes would locate in the Upstate to cut down on the costs of transporting the metal. American Titanium Works is a start-up company that has developed a more efficient process that significantly

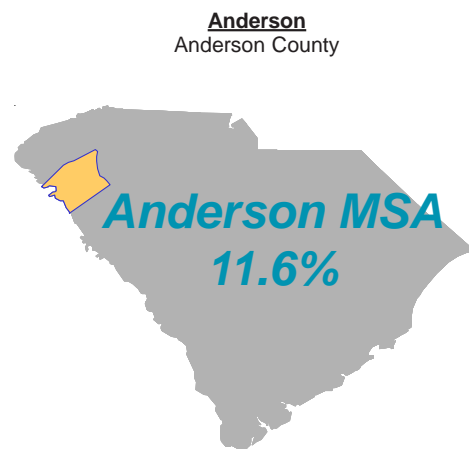
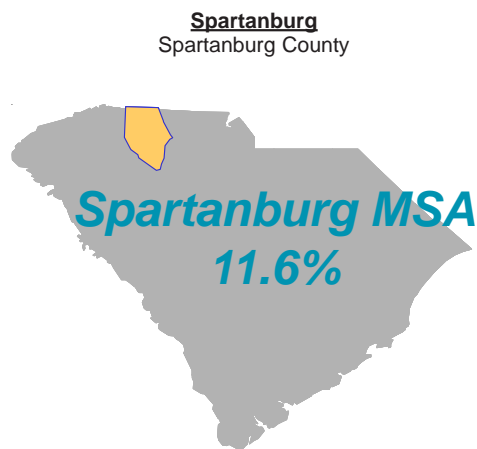
reduces the cost to produce the metal. The lower cost could allow for broader applications of titanium, Scott Jackson, executive vice president of the company, said in a Greenville News report. The research facility will focus on finding those applications, particularly in the automotive industry. (*Greenville News*)

Berkeley County — A medical equipment maker plans to invest \$5.6 million and create 29 jobs by expanding and relocating within Berkeley County to keep up with expected growth in the health care industry. German-owned Trumpf Medical Systems, Inc. plans to build a

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in the Major Metropolitan Areas April 2009

Industry	Spartanburg			Anderson		
	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008
Total Nonagricultural Employment	125,100	124,300	129,700	62,300	61,800	64,300
Total Private	106,000	105,200	110,300	50,200	49,700	52,000
Goods Producing	31,900	32,000	34,800	15,800	15,800	17,000
Service Providing	93,200	92,300	94,900	46,500	46,000	47,300
Private Service Providing	74,100	73,200	75,500	34,400	33,900	35,000
Manufacturing	25,800	25,900	27,100	12,100	12,200	13,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	25,400	25,200	27,200	11,300	11,500	11,800
Retail Trade	13,600	13,500	14,100	8,200	8,200	8,400
Total Government	19,100	19,100	19,400	12,100	12,100	12,300
Federal Government	500	500	500	300	300	300
State Government	3,800	3,800	4,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
Local Government	14,800	14,800	14,800	9,700	9,700	9,900

April 2009 Unemployment Rates for Metropolitan Statistical Areas



larger facility near its existing local headquarters. The company expects to relocate its offices, manufacturing and showroom this fall and add to its payroll over the next three years. President Andy Reding said that the medical industry isn't immune to the recession, noting that consumers are putting off elective surgeries and that borrowing costs for hospitals have risen. But he said that Trumpf's expansion makes sense because of the long-term population shift to the south, upgrades to existing medical centers and the growing demand for health-care services from the aging baby boom population. *(The Post and Courier)*

Spartanburg County — Universal Nolin Co. has invested \$10.6 million to bring a production plant and 150 new jobs to Spartanburg from Mexico. The company builds commercial refrigeration equipment used in a range of bottle cooler and beverage applications. It has purchased a nearly 200,000-square-foot building that was the former headquarters for Beverage-Air off of Business 85. Universal Nolin, a subsidiary of National Consolidated Industries, bought the facility along with several Carrier production lines and decided to bring those operations back to Spartanburg. The company also has rehired some of Beverage-Air's former Spartanburg employees. *(GoUpState.com)*

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in the Major Metropolitan Areas April 2009

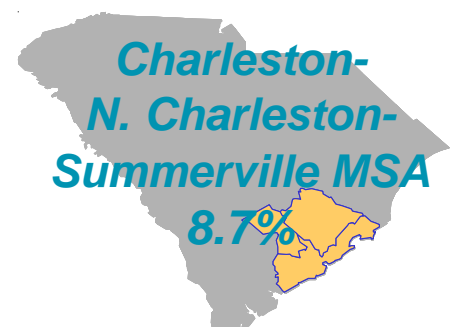
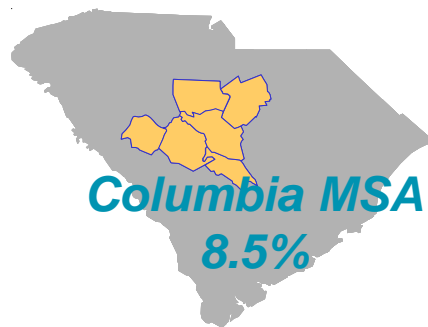
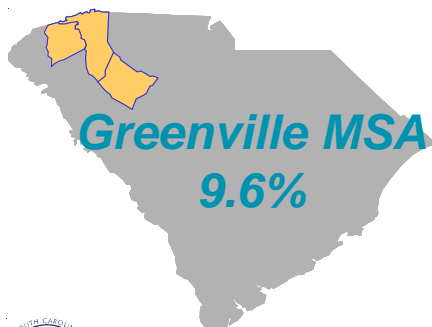
Industry	Greenville			Columbia			Charleston		
	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008
Total Nonagricultural Employment	312,200	312,100	322,400	361,600	362,300	368,500	294,700	291,500	303,700
Total Private	267,500	267,500	278,200	281,300	281,900	287,600	236,500	233,500	245,700
Goods Producing	57,500	57,700	61,000	48,600	48,700	50,700	39,900	40,100	43,000
Service Providing	254,700	254,400	261,400	313,000	313,600	317,800	254,800	251,400	260,700
Private Service Providing	210,000	209,800	217,200	232,700	233,200	236,900	196,600	193,400	202,700
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,400	16,500	18,000	19,000	19,100	19,900	18,700	18,800	20,100
Manufacturing	41,100	41,200	43,000	29,600	29,600	30,800	21,200	21,300	22,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	61,600	62,100	65,400	67,100	67,600	69,700	55,700	55,500	57,900
Wholesale Trade	14,600	14,700	14,800	16,100	16,100	16,700	8,800	8,800	8,800
Retail Trade	34,900	35,000	37,900	39,800	40,000	41,200	34,900	34,500	36,600
Food & Beverage Stores				6,200	6,100	6,400			
General Merchandise Stores				8,500	8,500	9,000	8,000	7,800	7,600
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	12,100	12,400	12,700	11,200	11,500	11,800	12,000	12,200	12,500
Information	7,300	7,200	7,100	6,100	6,100	5,900	5,900	5,900	5,600
Financial Activities	15,000	15,000	15,300	30,000	30,000	30,300	13,800	13,700	13,900
Credit Intermediation & Related Act.				7,900	7,900	8,200			
Professional & Business Services	52,300	52,400	55,000	39,200	39,100	41,800	42,600	41,000	43,500
Admin., Supp., Waste Mgt & Rem. Svc.	31,200	31,000	33,300	20,200	20,000	21,700	23,200	22,800	23,300
Educational & Health Services	32,000	31,900	31,400	45,000	44,900	43,400	32,700	32,500	31,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	24,000	23,900	23,100						
Leisure & Hospitality	29,900	29,300	31,000	31,100	31,300	31,800	34,500	33,500	38,500
Accommodations & Food Services							30,400	29,700	34,000
Food Services & Drinking Places				24,600	24,200	25,900	26,000	25,000	26,900
Other Services (except Pub. Adm.)	11,900	11,900	12,000	14,200	14,200	14,000	11,400	11,300	11,600
Total Government	44,700	44,600	44,200	80,300	80,400	80,900	58,200	58,000	58,000
Federal Government	2,100	2,100	2,100	9,900	9,900	9,600	8,400	8,400	8,300
State Government	10,400	10,400	10,900	33,700	33,700	34,800	21,800	21,900	22,200
Local Government	32,200	32,100	31,200	36,700	36,800	36,500	28,000	27,700	27,500

April 2009 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



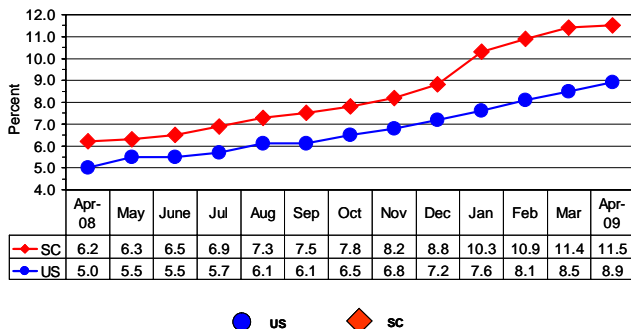
Estimated Number of Manufacturing Production Workers April 2009

Industry	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Net Change From:	
				Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008
Manufacturing	160,100	161,600	187,500	-1,500	-27,400
Durable Goods	86,200	87,300	104,700	-1,100	-18,500
Nondurable Goods	73,900	74,300	82,800	-400	-8,900

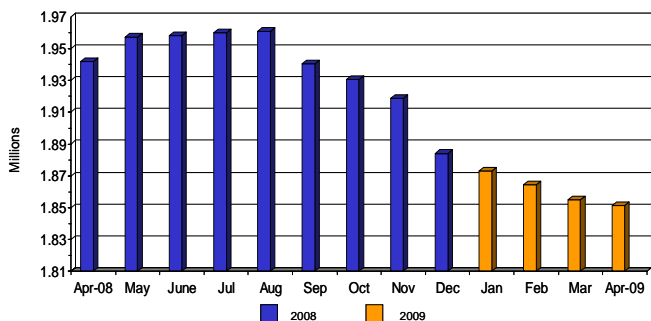
Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment April 2009

Industry	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008	Net Change From:	
				Mar. 2009	Apr. 2008
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,851,300	1,854,800	1,941,900	-3,500	-90,600
Construction	103,800	104,600	114,800	-104,600	-11,000
Manufacturing	218,300	220,300	244,800	-220,300	-26,500
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	357,100	360,000	376,500	-360,000	-19,400
Retail Trade	228,000	227,500	239,500	-227,500	-11,500
Information	29,600	29,600	28,600	-29,600	1,000
Financial Activities	103,600	103,700	106,300	-103,700	-2,700
Professional and Business Services	211,400	210,300	223,800	-210,300	-12,400
Educational and Health Services	206,500	206,100	205,500	-206,100	1,000
Leisure and Hospitality	203,600	204,900	219,800	-204,900	-16,200
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	29,000	28,700	28,800	-28,700	200
Accommodation & Food Services	174,600	176,200	191,000	-176,200	-16,400
Other Services	71,500	71,000	71,300	-71,000	200
Government	341,700	340,100	346,100	-340,100	-4,400
Federal Government	30,900	30,800	30,200	-30,800	700
State Government	98,600	98,500	100,000	-98,500	-1,400
Local Government	212,200	210,800	215,900	-210,800	-3,700

US & SC Unemployment Rates
April 2008 through April 2009



SC Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment
April 2008 through April 2009



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 2008 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.cfgcareerfaairs.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 APRIL 2009, the most current data available.

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June 2009

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Mark Your Calendars for the Next SC Employer Council Meeting

Friday,

July 10, 2009

10:00am – 2:00pm

(with a complimentary lunch)

SC Employment Security Commission Complex

C. Lem Harper Building

631 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

RSVP by July 8, 2009

To Mike Williams at mwilliams@sces.org or

call (803) 737-2703



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