



## Spotlight on Charleston . . .

Charleston County and the county seat are the most historic locations in the state. English settlers arrived in the colony of Carolina in 1670, and established a town at Albemarle Point on the west bank of the Ashley River. The settlement, named Charles Town in honor of King Charles II of England, was moved to a peninsula between the Ashley and Cooper rivers. During the Revolutionary War, the American forces defeated the attacking British fleet at Charleston in June 1776; a palmetto log fort (later named Fort Moultrie) on Sullivan's Island withstood the British cannon balls, and the palmetto tree was subsequently given a prominent place on the South Carolina flag. At another Charleston fort, Fort Sumter, federal troops were fired upon by Confederate forces in April 1861, signaling the start of the Civil War. Charleston County has had many famous residents, including three signers of the United States Constitution: Charles Pinckney (1757-1824), Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1746-1825), and John Rutledge (1739-1800).

### Charleston Workforce Center

176 Lockwood Boulevard  
Charleston, SC 29403  
(843) 953-8400 / FAX: (843) 953-8435

### Location & Climate

- Located in the southeastern area of the state
- Surrounded by Colleton, Dorchester, Berkeley, and Georgetown counties, with the Atlantic Ocean to the east
- This region has an average temperature of 65.7 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 56.0 inches.

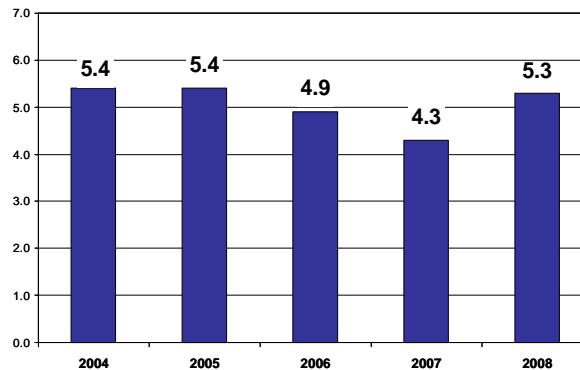
### Population

- Was 343,520 in 2007
- Estimated growth to 357,370 by 2015
- 2007 data was comprised of 65.5% White, 31.4% African-American, and 3.1% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population increased from 7,434 in 2000 to 12,533 in 2007, a 68.6% change.

### Labor Force

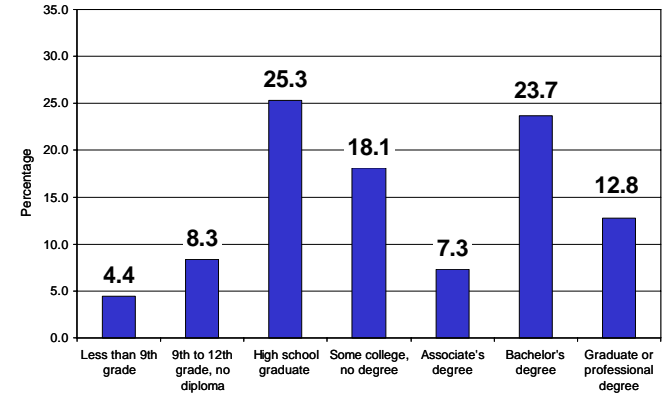
- Increased from 173,380 in 2007 to 176,870 in 2008
- Employment rose from 165,910 in 2007 to 167,510 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate dropped from 4.3% in 2007 to 5.3% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Charleston County  
2004 - 2008



### Educational Attainment

Charleston County 2007



### Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$38,700 for 2007.
- This was 124% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 100% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

### Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Charleston Workforce Center paid \$28,597,859 in regular unemployment insurance benefits during 2008.



SC Employment Security Commission  
Labor Market Information

P O Box 995  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 737-2660 / FAX: (803) 737-2838  
(800) 205-9290 (outside the Columbia area)

<http://www.sces.org/lmi>