

Spotlight on Chester . . .

Chester County and its county seat were named for Chester County, Pennsylvania. The county was formed in 1785 as part of the larger Camden District; it became a separate district in 1800. Scotch-Irish settlers from Pennsylvania and Virginia moved into this upstate region about 1755. During the Revolutionary War, American forces under General Thomas Sumter were defeated here at the battle of Fishing Creek, in August 1780. The Landsford Canal was built in 1823, to allow boats and barges to bypass rapids on the Catawba River; this canal is now open as a state park. In later years, the availability of hydroelectric power encouraged the establishment of textile mills in the area. South Carolina governor, United States senator and judge Donald S. Russell (1906-1998) lived in Chester as a boy.

Chester Workforce Center

764 Wilson Street, P O Drawer 520
Chester, SC 29706
(803) 377-8147 / FAX: (803) 581-5262

Location & Climate

- Located in the northern area of the state
- Surrounded by York, Lancaster, Fairfield, and Union counties
- This region has an average temperature of 60.6 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 46.4 inches.

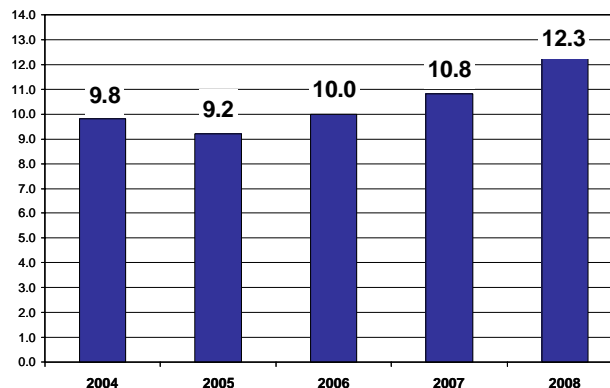
Population

- Was 32,570 in 2007
- Estimated growth to 33,830 by 2015
- 2007 data was comprised of 60.4% White, 38.1% African-American, and 1.5% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population increased from 255 in 2000 to 364 in 2007, a 42.7% change.

Labor Force

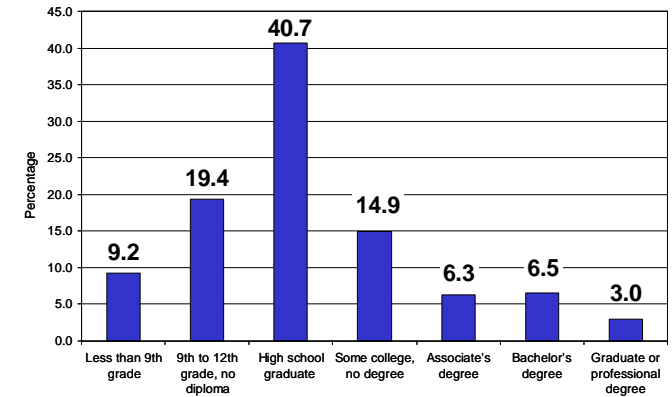
- Decreased from 15,490 in 2007 to 15,260 in 2008
- Employment dropped from 13,830 in 2007 to 13,380 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate rose from 10.8% in 2007 to 12.3% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Chester County
2004 - 2008



Educational Attainment

Chester County 2007



Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$26,490 for 2007.
- This was 85% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 69% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Chester Workforce Center paid \$5,188,953 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>