

Spotlight on Florence . . .

Florence County took its name from its county seat, the city of Florence. The county was formed in 1888 from parts of Marion, Darlington, Williamsburg, and Clarendon counties. The city of Florence was founded in the 1850s as a stop on the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad; it was named for Florence Harllee, daughter of William Wallace Harllee (1812-1897), the president of the railroad. Florence soon became an important transportation center for the Pee Dee region. During the Civil War, it was the site of a Confederate prison camp. In later years, tobacco growing became a major activity in the county. Some famous Florence County natives are artist William H. Johnson (1901-1970), astronaut Ronald E. McNair (1950-1986), and stock car racer Cale Yarborough.

Florence Workforce Center

1558 West Evans Street
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 669-4271 / FAX: (843) 679-3955

Location & Climate

- Located in the northeastern area of the state
- Surrounded by Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, Williamsburg, Clarendon, Sumter, and Lee counties
- This region has an average temperature of 63.7 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 46.5 inches.

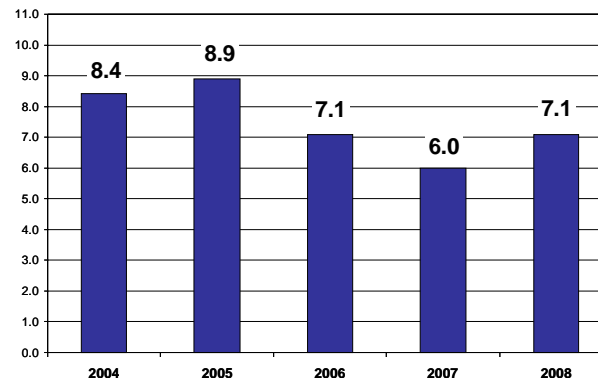
Population

- Was 131,730 in 2007
- Estimated growth to 138,860 by 2015
- 2007 data was comprised of 57.2% White, 40.8% African-American, and 2.0% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population has increased from 1,383 in 2000 to 1,964 in 2007, a 42.0% change.

Labor Force

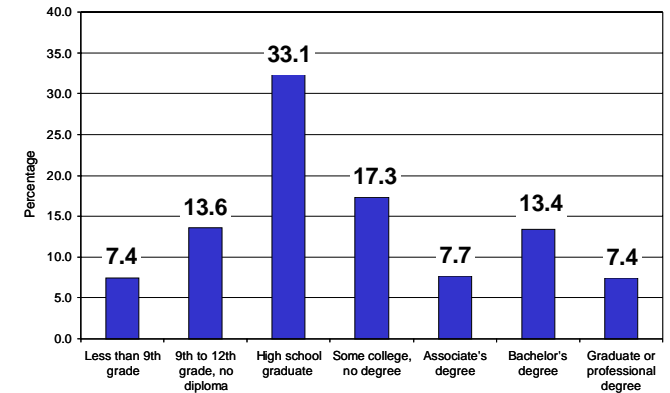
- Increased from 62,430 in 2007 to 63,300 in 2008
- Employment rose from 58,660 in 2007 to 58,790 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate climbed from 6.0% in 2007 to 7.1% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Florence County
2004 - 2008



Educational Attainment

Florence County 2007



Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$31,800 for 2007.
- This was 102% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 82% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Florence Workforce Center paid \$14,368,045 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>