



Spotlight on Richland . . .

Richland County was probably named for its "rich land." The county was formed in 1785 as part of the larger Camden District. In 1786, the state legislature decided to move the capital from Charleston to a more central location. A site was chosen in Richland County, which is in the geographic center of the state, and a new town was laid out. Columbia subsequently became not only the center of government, but also an important trade and manufacturing center. Cotton from the surrounding plantations was shipped through Columbia and later manufactured into textiles there. Columbia is also known for its educational institutions, particularly the University of South Carolina, which was chartered in 1801. General William T. Sherman captured Columbia during the Civil War, and his troops burned the town on February 17, 1865. The U.S. Army returned on more friendly terms in 1917, when Fort Jackson was established. Confederate general, South Carolina Governor, and U.S. Senator Wade Hampton (1818-1902) was a resident of Richland County, and President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) lived in Columbia as a boy.

Columbia Workforce Center

700 Taylor Street, P O Box 567
Columbia, SC 29657
(803 737-5627 / FAX: (803) 737-2756

Location & Climate

- Located in the central area of the state
- Surrounded by Fairfield, Kershaw, Sumter, Calhoun, Lexington, and Newberry counties
- This region has an average temperature of 62.5 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 47.7 inches.

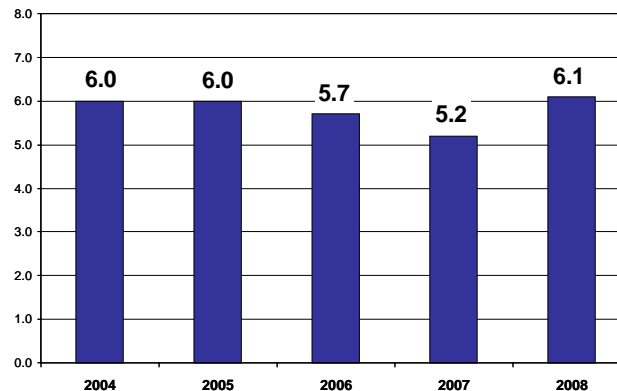
Population

- Was 358,020 in 2007
- Estimated growth to 381,230 by 2015
- 2007 data was comprised of 49.9% White, 46.1% African-American, and 3.9% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population has increased from 8,713 in 2000 to 13,302 in 2007, a 52.7% change.

Labor Force

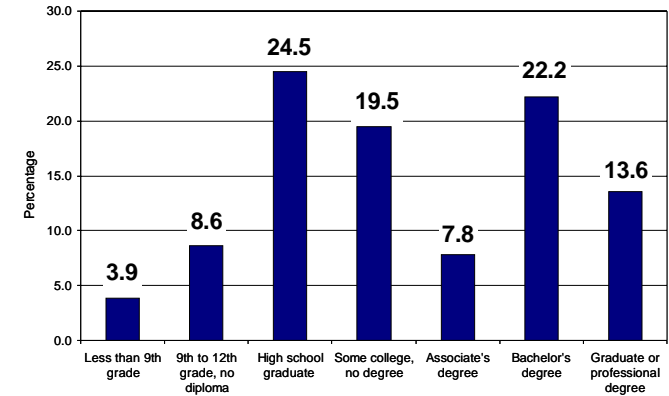
- Increased from 179,440 in 2007 to 181,590 in 2008
- Employment rose from 170,130 in 2007 to 170,440 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate climbed from 5.2% in 2007 to 6.1% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Richland County
2004 - 2008



Educational Attainment

Richland County 2007



Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$34,430 for 2007.
- This was 111% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 89% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Columbia Workforce Center, which serves Richland County, paid \$36,269,774 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>