

WORKFORCE TRENDS

Newsline



Released: March 26, 2010

South Carolina's Unemployment Rate 12.5% in February

South Carolina's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 12.5% in February from the revised January rate of 12.5%, the State Employment Security Commission reported today. January's preliminary rate was revised to 12.5% from 12.6%. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated the state's labor force at 2,175,356 in February, up 1,375 over the revised January level. The estimated number of unemployed decreased by 1,035 to 271,140. The national jobless rate also held steady in February at 9.7%.

The non-farm job count increased by 13,000 in February with increases in every major industry division except Construction and Manufacturing. Retail Trade added 1,400 positions in February. This was followed by increases in Leisure and Hospitality (+2,400), Professional and Business Services (+2,400), Education and Health Services (+3,000), and Government (+2,500). Construction jobs were down 500 over the month, and Manufacturing showed a small loss of 100 jobs. The overall job count for February was 24,100 below the year-ago level.

"We are encouraged by the job gains in most industry divisions as well as the slight downward movement in the number of unemployed in February. Going forward, we are hopeful this direction will continue; nevertheless, we feel this will be a slow and arduous process as the state attempts to recover from the recent recession," said Samuel R. Foster, Interim Executive Director of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission.



S. C. Employment Security Commission Samuel R. Foster, Interim Executive Director

P. O. Box 995, Columbia, South Carolina 29202 (803) 737-2617



WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
February-10

Industry	February 2010	January 2010	February 2009	Net Change From Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonag. Employment	1,798,700	1,785,700	1,822,800	13,000	-24,100
Natural Resources and Mining	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	200
Construction	80,300	80,800	92,400	-500	-12,100
Manufacturing	207,400	207,500	224,500	-100	-17,100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	342,200	340,400	347,600	1,800	-5,400
Information	27,800	27,700	27,700	100	100
Financial Activities	101,700	100,900	101,600	800	100
Professional and Business Services	207,200	204,800	198,900	2,400	8,300
Educational and Health Services	210,200	207,200	207,500	3,000	2,700
Leisure and Hospitality	192,200	189,800	198,100	2,400	-5,900
Government	356,800	354,300	350,800	2,500	6,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES RANKED BY COUNTY

Unemployment Rate

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		
		February 2010	January 2009	Change
1	Marion	22.7	24.1	-1.4
2	Allendale	22.4	24.1	-1.7
3	Chester	21.3	22.0	-0.7
4	Union	20.9	21.8	-0.9
5	Marlboro	20.8	21.2	-0.4
6	Barnwell	19.6	21.1	-1.5
7	McCormick	18.9	18.4	0.5
8	Lancaster	18.5	18.9	-0.4
9	Bamberg	17.7	18.5	-0.8
	Williamsburg	17.7	17.6	0.1
11	Chesterfield	17.3	18.2	-0.9
12	Dillon	17.2	17.4	-0.2
13	Clarendon	16.6	17.4	-0.8
	Orangeburg	16.6	17.9	-1.3
15	Cherokee	16.4	16.9	-0.5
16	Abbeville	16.3	16.6	-0.3
	Hampton	16.3	16.7	-0.4
18	Lee	15.7	16.1	-0.4
	York	15.7	16.3	-0.6
20	Horry	15.3	16.4	-1.1
21	Colleton	14.8	15.1	-0.3
22	Georgetown	14.6	15.3	-0.7
23	Anderson	14.2	14.2	0.0
	Fairfield	14.2	14.8	-0.6
25	Oconee	14.1	14.7	-0.6
26	Darlington	14.0	14.3	-0.3
27	Sumter	13.9	14.1	-0.2
28	Greenwood	13.8	14.1	-0.3
29	Spartanburg	13.2	13.6	-0.4
30	Calhoun	13.0	14.4	-1.4
	Florence	13.0	13.4	-0.4
32	Laurens	12.8	13.3	-0.5
33	Newberry	12.5	12.9	-0.4
34	Edgefield	11.8	12.2	-0.4
35	Kershaw	11.5	11.7	-0.2
	Pickens	11.5	11.6	-0.1
37	Berkeley	11.3	11.2	0.1
38	Greenville	10.9	11.2	-0.3
	Jasper	10.9	11.0	-0.1
40	Dorchester	10.6	10.7	-0.1
41	Saluda	10.5	10.8	-0.3
42	Richland	10.4	10.5	-0.1
43	Charleston	10.2	10.5	-0.3
44	Aiken	10.0	10.7	-0.7
45	Beaufort	9.6	9.7	-0.1
46	Lexington	9.2	9.3	-0.1

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY LABOR MARKET AREA

February-10

AREA:	LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			% OF LABOR FORCE		
	February 2010	January 2010	February 2009	February 2010	January 2010	February 2009	February 2010	January 2010	February 2009
ABBEVILLE	11,236	11,192	11,735	1,826	1,856	1,723	16.3	16.6	14.7
AIKEN	76,611	77,240	76,783	7,648	8,280	7,204	10.0	10.7	9.4
ALLENDALE	3,399	3,450	3,491	761	833	765	22.4	24.1	21.9
ANDERSON MSA	85,838	85,113	86,908	12,159	12,071	10,789	14.2	14.2	12.4
BAMBERG	6,478	6,492	6,536	1,147	1,202	1,017	17.7	18.5	15.6
BARNWELL	9,408	9,533	9,228	1,841	2,008	1,514	19.6	21.1	16.4
BEAUFORT	65,731	65,391	61,991	6,298	6,365	5,562	9.6	9.7	9.0
BERKELEY	80,359	80,285	80,421	9,041	8,994	8,218	11.3	11.2	10.2
CALHOUN	6,888	6,967	6,875	898	1,002	790	13.0	14.4	11.5
CHARLESTON	174,927	175,378	173,528	17,911	18,421	14,563	10.2	10.5	8.4
CHEROKEE	25,421	25,421	26,451	4,172	4,290	4,285	16.4	16.9	16.2
CHESTER	15,620	15,712	16,114	3,321	3,460	3,154	21.3	22.0	19.6
CHESTERFIELD	18,974	19,063	19,367	3,286	3,467	3,265	17.3	18.2	16.9
CLARENDON	12,876	12,937	12,923	2,137	2,247	1,975	16.6	17.4	15.3
COLLETON	17,515	17,476	17,158	2,585	2,647	2,335	14.8	15.1	13.6
DARLINGTON	31,397	31,482	32,153	4,381	4,513	4,199	14.0	14.3	13.1
DILLON	14,200	14,130	13,950	2,437	2,453	2,114	17.2	17.4	15.2
DORCHESTER	63,770	63,850	64,010	6,750	6,851	6,282	10.6	10.7	9.8
EDGEFIELD	11,304	11,361	11,305	1,329	1,387	1,241	11.8	12.2	11.0
FAIRFIELD	11,178	11,209	11,209	1,584	1,656	1,463	14.2	14.8	13.1
FLORENCE	63,738	63,879	64,392	8,305	8,543	7,036	13.0	13.4	10.9
GEORGETOWN	31,312	31,322	29,687	4,557	4,780	3,853	14.6	15.3	13.0
GREENVILLE	221,768	221,521	224,431	24,258	24,830	21,288	10.9	11.2	9.5
GREENWOOD	31,358	31,220	31,848	4,333	4,392	4,014	13.8	14.1	12.6
HAMPTON	8,017	7,996	7,973	1,306	1,334	1,232	16.3	16.7	15.5
HORRY/MYR BCH MSA	126,938	127,358	124,737	19,402	20,942	17,669	15.3	16.4	14.2
JASPER	10,440	10,377	9,892	1,138	1,138	1,060	10.9	11.0	10.7
KERSHAW	30,120	30,061	30,363	3,456	3,511	3,279	11.5	11.7	10.8
LANCASTER	30,519	30,554	30,873	5,634	5,770	5,371	18.5	18.9	17.4
LAURENS	32,626	32,684	33,010	4,181	4,357	3,754	12.8	13.3	11.4
LEE	8,428	8,438	8,509	1,319	1,361	1,200	15.7	16.1	14.1
LEXINGTON	133,196	132,813	133,469	12,213	12,348	10,578	9.2	9.3	7.9
MARION	13,300	13,439	13,196	3,023	3,238	2,797	22.7	24.1	21.2
MARLBORO	12,133	12,141	12,317	2,528	2,578	2,262	20.8	21.2	18.4
McCORMICK	3,492	3,447	3,609	659	634	661	18.9	18.4	18.3
NEWBERRY	18,194	18,170	18,778	2,266	2,349	2,340	12.5	12.9	12.5
OCONEE	31,554	31,540	31,591	4,462	4,632	4,147	14.1	14.7	13.1
ORANGEBURG	41,588	41,927	42,419	6,901	7,494	6,077	16.6	17.9	14.3
PICKENS	57,647	57,454	58,259	6,632	6,650	5,789	11.5	11.6	9.9
RICHLAND	181,402	180,870	180,789	18,906	19,069	15,730	10.4	10.5	8.7
SALUDA	8,993	8,991	9,053	942	974	875	10.5	10.8	9.7
SPARTANBURG MSA	134,909	135,029	136,854	17,870	18,315	15,783	13.2	13.6	11.5
SUMTER MSA	43,405	43,680	45,223	6,048	6,138	5,713	13.9	14.1	12.6
UNION	12,191	12,267	12,406	2,544	2,677	2,319	20.9	21.8	18.7
WILLIAMSBURG	16,255	16,135	15,960	2,871	2,847	2,425	17.7	17.6	15.2
YORK	111,095	112,049	112,809	17,453	18,270	15,406	15.7	16.3	13.7
Multi County MSAs									
CHAS MSA	319,057	319,513	317,959	33,702	34,266	29,063	10.6	10.7	9.1
COLA MSA	371,777	370,911	371,759	37,999	38,561	32,716	10.2	10.4	8.8
FLORENCE MSA	95,135	95,361	96,545	12,686	13,056	11,235	13.3	13.7	11.6
GRNV MSA	312,041	311,658	315,700	35,071	35,837	30,831	11.2	11.5	9.8
South Carolina*	2,175.3	2,173.9	2,181.4	271.1	272.1	232.5	12.5	12.5	10.7

* Seasonally Adjusted