

# Workforce Investment Area Unemployment Insurance Claims

A Regional Analysis of South Carolina's  
Population of Insured Unemployed,  
2006 – 2008

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This study analyzes trends in Unemployment Insurance usage across South Carolina's 12 Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) as well as trends within each local area. It identifies the distribution of UI claims as well as the characteristics of both the UI claimant and UI claim.



# OVERVIEW: Workforce Investment Area (WIA)- Level Examination of Claims

Accounting for differences in population, the Pee Dee WIA had the largest number of unique claimants between January 2006 and December 2008. Sizable differences exist in the percentage of each WIA's workforce involved in seasonal industries such as manufacturing, construction, and entertainment. Demographic characteristics are fairly consistent across WIAs in terms of average age, gender, and years of education.

## Introduction

Across South Carolina, 11% of the state's population—or 490,537 individuals—filed at least one claim for Unemployment Insurance (UI) between 2006 and 2008. These individuals represent a comprehensive dataset of those who lost employment and filed a claim for UI. The dataset includes 663,708 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.

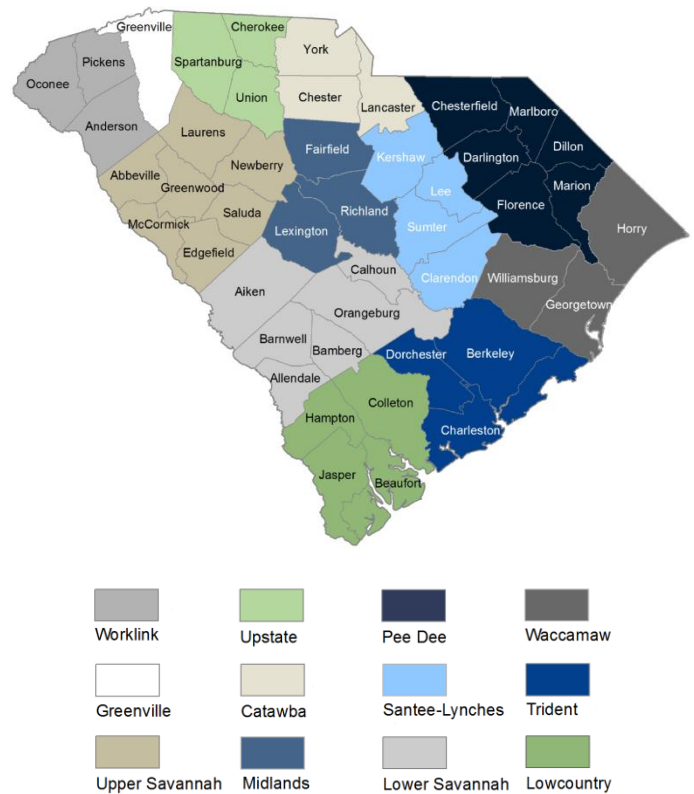
Each individual did not necessarily receive payment of benefits. Of these 663,708 claims, 394,787 received at least one UI benefits payment. According to the dataset, the other 268,921 claims did not receive benefits (98,860 of these were deemed ineligible, 3,019 were withdrawn, and the remainder were unknown).

Because each record represents a single claim, the number of claimants in this dataset cannot, unfortunately, be compared to nationally reported results by the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA). Their weekly reported initial and continued claims for UI adhere to specific federal reporting rules in which initial claims include both new and additional claims. Furthermore, some claims are counted as both initial and continued claims in the same week.

The characteristics of the insured unemployed vary across WIAs throughout the state. This report presents an initial view of this population for each of these WIA geographic regions of South Carolina.

## Distribution by WIA

**Figure 1-1. South Carolina Workforce Investment Areas**



South Carolina has twelve Workforce Investment Areas as displayed in Figure 1-1. Table 1-1 shows that although the Midlands WIA had the largest number of unique claimants (60,952), after accounting for labor force size in each area, the Pee Dee WIA had the highest percentage of their labor force file at least one claim during the period 2006-2008.

**Table 1-1. Unique Claimants by WIA, 2006-2008**

WIA	2006-2008 Claimants	2007 Labor Force	% of Labor Force
Pee Dee	44,263	149,349	39.6%
Upper Savannah	32,983	117,517	28.1%
Lower Savannah	38,500	140,459	27.4%
Upstate	46,044	171,011	26.9%
Santee-Lynches	23,529	95,028	24.8%
Waccamaw	41,418	174,289	23.8%
Worklink	39,350	173,271	22.7%
Catawba	29,235	149,894	19.5%
Midlands	60,952	322,049	18.9%
Greenville	38,687	220,578	17.5%
Trident	54,162	313,035	17.3%
Lowcountry	16,534	98,596	16.8%
MISSING	24,980	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>490,637</b>	<b>2,125,076</b>	<b>23.1%</b>

Source: US Census Bureau County Population Estimates and Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

## Repeat Claims

**Table 1-2. Total Claims by Local Area, 2006-2008**

WIA	1 Claim	2 Claims	3+ Claims
Trident	80.10%	16.40%	3.50%
Lowcountry	79.00%	16.50%	4.50%
Greenville	77.00%	18.70%	4.30%
MISSING	76.40%	14.80%	8.70%
Midlands	74.40%	19.90%	5.70%
Waccamaw	73.70%	19.70%	6.70%
Santee-Lynches	73.30%	20.60%	6.10%
Worklink	70.90%	22.50%	6.60%
Catawba	68.70%	23.40%	8.20%
Upper Savannah	68.40%	24.40%	7.20%
Upstate	67.50%	24.70%	7.70%
Pee Dee	67.20%	23.40%	9.40%
Lower Savannah	66.10%	23.70%	10.10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.4%</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

The Greenville, Lowcountry, and Trident areas had the highest percentage of their claimants file only one claim in the three year period. The Upstate, Pee Dee, and Lower Savannah areas had higher percentages of claimants with more than one claim between 2006 and 2008 (Table 1-2).

This is most likely related to their industry concentration (Table 1-3). Highly seasonal industries such as Manufacturing, Administrative Support/Waste Management, and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation are typically associated with higher numbers of repeat claims.

## Seasonality of Claims

**Table 1-3. Peak-to-Trough by Local Area, 2006-2008**

WIA	January-February	July-August
Waccamaw	163.1%	111.3%
Pee Dee	118.4%	151.2%
Lowcountry	111.5%	115.6%
Worklink	111.0%	151.9%
Upper Savannah	105.7%	140.6%
Upstate	105.7%	156.8%
Greenville	105.6%	128.1%
Catawba	99.8%	197.1%
Santee-Lynches	76.7%	156.7%
Lower Savannah	72.7%	215.0%
Midlands	55.6%	125.5%
Trident	37.1%	117.9%
MISSING	285.8%	151.5%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>102.7%</b>	<b>147.1%</b>

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Large spikes exist in the number of new claims filed, occurring in January and July of each year. Of all claims filed between 2006 and 2008, 12.5% are filed in the month of January and 10.6% are filed in July. The average in each of the other months is 7.7%.

For each WIA, Table 1-3 shows the percentage change in the number of new claims filed between January and February as well as the percentage change in the number of claims filed between July and August. In Waccamaw, the number of new claims in January is 163.1% higher than the number of new claims filed in February, the highest of all WIAs. For the period between July and August, the Lower Savannah WIA had the largest percentage change in number of claims filed at 215%.

## Filing Method

Table 1-4. Filing Method by Local Area, 2006-2008

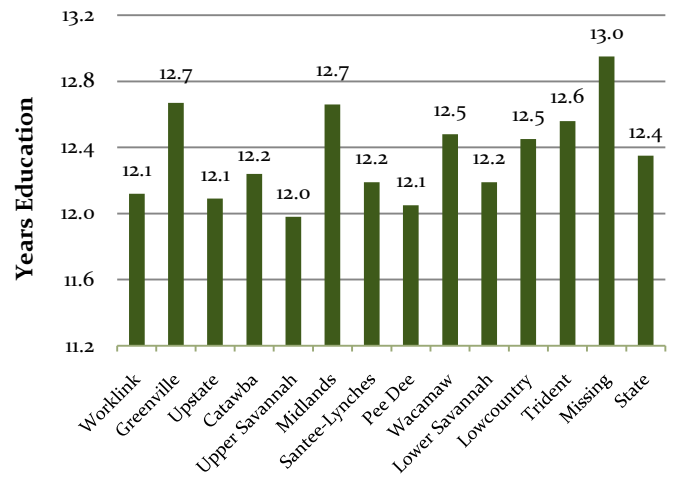
WIA	Employee	Employer	Other/ Unknown
Trident	93.80%	6.10%	0.10%
Midlands	91.50%	8.40%	0.10%
Waccamaw	85.10%	14.80%	0.20%
Santee-Lynches	84.00%	15.80%	0.20%
Greenville	83.50%	16.40%	0.10%
Lowcountry	82.60%	17.30%	0.10%
Catawba	81.40%	17.40%	1.20%
Pee Dee	78.60%	20.90%	0.50%
Lower Savannah	75.60%	24.20%	0.10%
Upstate	74.40%	25.40%	0.20%
Upper Savannah	73.50%	26.40%	0.10%
Worklink	73.10%	26.70%	0.20%
MISSING	65.40%	31.60%	3.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>81.0%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

There are differences across WIAs in the percent of claims filed by employers versus employees (Table 1-4). Employer-filed claims are often associated with missing demographic data and repeat filings. The Worklink, Upper Savannah, and Lower Savannah areas have the highest percentage of employer filed claims possibly related to higher concentrations of manufacturing industries in these areas that have temporary layoffs on a regular, or semi-regular, basis. Trident and the Midlands have lower concentration in the manufacturing industry and also fewer employer-filed claims.

## Educational Attainment

Figure 1-2. Educational Attainment by Local Area, 2006-2008



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Statewide, 25% of claims are missing educational attainment information. For claims with known years of educational attainment, WIAs with the highest levels of educational attainment are urban areas, including Greenville, Midlands, and Trident WIAs. The Upper Savannah and Pee Dee WIAs had the lowest average educational attainment.

## Other WIA Characteristics

- ▶ Most WIAs have more male claimants than female claimants. However, there are larger numbers of female claimants in the Midlands and Trident areas.
- ▶ The Worklink and Waccamaw WIAs have higher percentages of Caucasian claimants while the Midlands, Santee-Lynches, Pee Dee, and Lower Savannah service significantly higher percentages of African-American claimants.
- ▶ For those with known ages, Greenville (39.2) had the highest average age at file date while Waccamaw (36.8) had the youngest.
- ▶ The coastal areas of Waccamaw (11.8%), the Lowcountry (13.3%), and Trident (10.5%) had the highest percentage of claims in construction.
- ▶ Claims in the Administrative Support/ Waste Management industries were concentrated in Greenville, the Upstate, and Worklink WIAs. A large percentage of the Waccamaw claimants reported being in the highly seasonal Entertainment industry.

## Key Points

Main points regarding all WIAs are provided as follows:

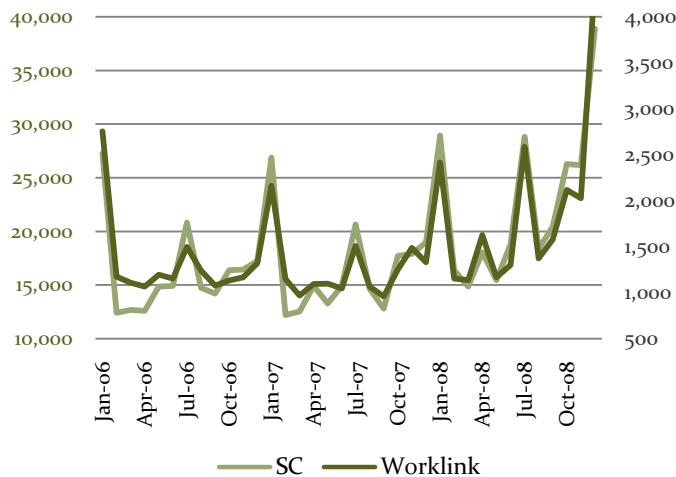
- ✓ Between 2006 and 2008, 11% of South Carolina's population applied for UI at least once.
- ✓ The WIAs do not have extreme differences in the demographic characteristics (age, race, gender) of their claimants.
- ✓ Certain WIAs have high concentrations of seasonal industries which may contribute to their greater likelihood of having multiple claims in the three year period.

# WORKLINK

The Worklink WIA had 53,960 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 39,350 individuals. The Worklink WIA had a higher percentage of white claimants, employer filed claims, and concentrations in the Administrative Support/Waste Management (includes temporary staffing) industry compared to other WIAs. Claimants in this region also tended to have shorter average durations on UI and fewer repeat claimants compared to the state average.

## Total Claims

**Figure 2-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 1,499 claims were filed each month in the Worklink WIA. Figure 2-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The number of claims filed in the Worklink WIA follows a pattern remarkably similar to the overall statewide pattern.

## Age

**Table 2-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

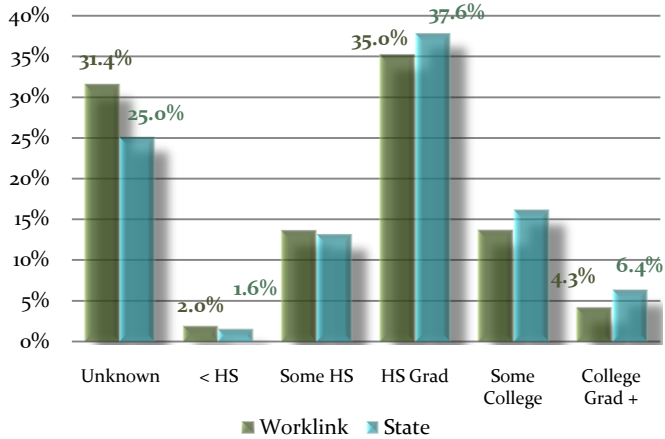
Age Range	% Claims Worklink	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	3.9%	4.6%
21-30	19.7%	23.1%
31-40	16.1%	18.1%
41-50	15.8%	17.8%
51-60	10.5%	11.3%
61-70	2.9%	2.9%
71-80	0.4%	0.4%
81-90	0.1%	0.1%
91+	0.0%	0.1%
Unknown	30.6%	21.7%
<b>Average Age</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>37.9</b>

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Worklink WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 19.7% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was higher by about half a year in the Worklink WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 30.6% of claims in Worklink which is substantially greater than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).

## Education

**Figure 2-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

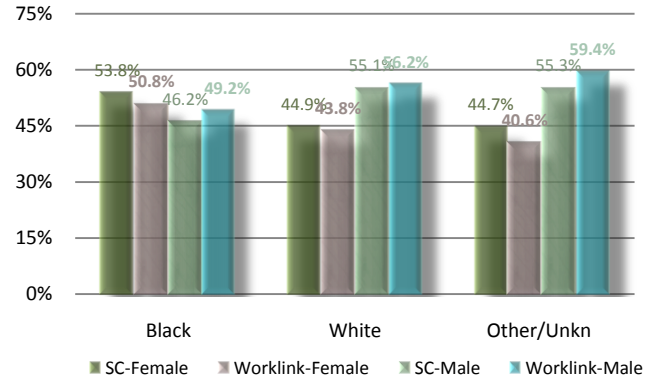


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide but for 31.4% of claims in Worklink.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Worklink WIA was somewhat lower than the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Worklink:
  - ▶ 15.6% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 35.0% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 17.9% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 2-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in Worklink which is also true of the state overall.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at slightly lower rates than African-American females in Worklink but this is less pronounced than the state overall.
- ▶ Males were more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This divergence was more pronounced in Worklink than statewide.

## Filing Method

**Table 2-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Worklink	% Claims Statewide
Employee	73.1%	81.0%
Employer	26.7%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.2%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to 26.7% in Worklink.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 2-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

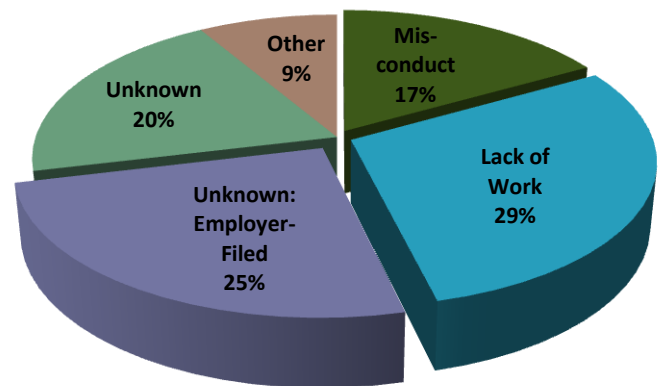
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Manufacturing	51.8%
Agriculture/Hunting	32.0%
Other Services	31.7%
Unknown	26.9%
Mining-Extraction	24.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Worklink WIA are shown in Table 2-3. Over half of all claims in the Manufacturing industry between 2006 and 2008 were filed by employers.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 2-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

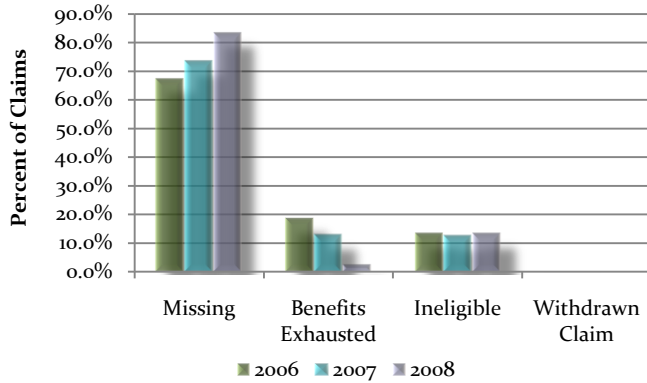
For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 53,960 claims filed in Worklink between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 29% were filed for Lack of Work (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 17% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 9% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 45% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 55.4% of them were filed by employers which equates to 25% of all total claims.



## Termination of Benefits Reason

Figure 2-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 75.8% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 67% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 73% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 83% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 10.5% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 19% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 13% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 3% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 14%. By year:
  - ▶ 14% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 13% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 14% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

Table 2-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry Top 15, 2006 – 2008

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Administrative and Support Services	8,874	16.5%	13.0%
Textile Mills	6,528	12.1%	5.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	3,397	6.3%	5.3%
Food Services and Drinking Places	3,298	6.1%	8.1%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	2,384	4.4%	2.7%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,652	3.1%	3.0%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	1,631	3.0%	2.0%
Plastics and Rubber Products Mfg	1,440	2.7%	1.3%
Merchant Wholesalers/Durable Goods	1,122	2.1%	1.6%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	1,109	2.1%	2.4%
Construction of Buildings	1,018	1.9%	1.9%
Textile Product Mills	997	1.9%	1.9%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Const	832	1.5%	1.3%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	827	1.5%	1.3%
UNKNOWN	3,515	6.5%	10.0%

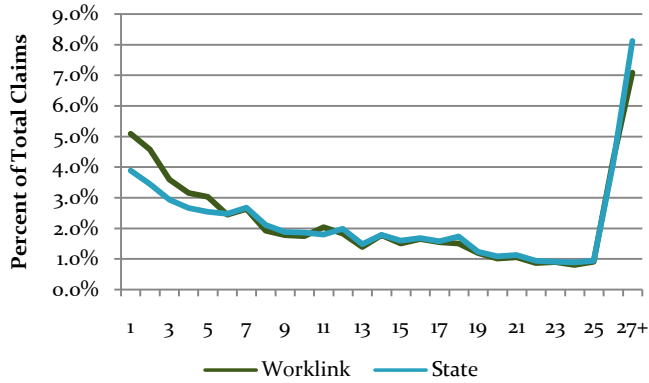
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 2-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Worklink include Administrative and Support Services and Textile Mills.

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Worklink had more claims in:
  - ▶ Administrative Support Services (16.5% vs. 13.0%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Worklink had fewer unknown industry claims.

## Duration

**Figure 2-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Worklink (13.8) was slightly lower than the statewide average (15.0). This is possibly explained by a larger number of employer-filed claims with less than 5 weeks duration, which may reflect temporary plant closures rather than permanent job loss.

Figure 2-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). More claims in Worklink had the short durations of 1-5 weeks compared to the state. About 40% of claims had missing or unknown durations for Worklink and the state.

## Repeat Claims

**Table 2-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Worklink	Statewide
1	70.9%	72.4%
2	22.5%	20.8%
3	6.0%	6.1%
4	0.5%	0.6%
5	0.1%	0.1%
6	0.1%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Worklink had slightly more claimants who filed more than one claim during this period than the state average. About the same percent filed 3 or more claims in Worklink and the state overall.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 2-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change by Industry, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Specialty Trade Contractors	192.9%
Textile Mills	183.1%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	166.7%
Food Services and Drinking Places	106.9%
Administrative and Support Svcs	79.9%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 2-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Worklink. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Specialty Trade Contractors, Textile Mills, and Transportation Equipment Manufacturing industries.

## Key Worklink Characteristics

Central findings for the Worklink WIA include the following points:

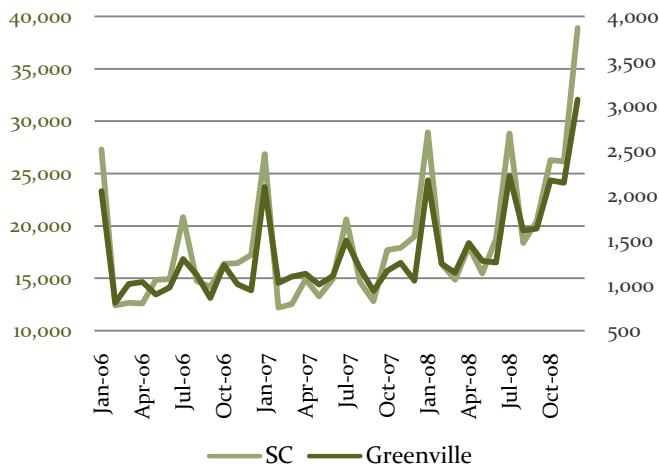
- ✓ Worklink was not significantly different from the state average in most of the demographic characteristics of its claimants although it had a slightly higher percentage of claimants with unknown ages.
- ✓ Worklink was the WIA with the highest percentage of white claimants.
- ✓ Worklink had a higher percentage of employer-filed claims compared to the state average. It also had a fairly large percentage of its claims from the Administrative Support/Waste Management (includes temporary staffing) industry which is known to have seasonal fluctuations.
- ✓ Average weeks of receiving benefits was lower in Worklink than most other WIAs and the state average while the probability of being a repeat claimant was somewhat lower than the state probability.

# Greenville

The Greenville WIA had 49,332 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 38,687 individuals. The Greenville WIA had a higher percentage of white claimants, slightly more educated claimants, and higher concentrations in the Administrative Support/Waste Management (includes temporary staffing) industry compared to the state. Claimants in this region also tended to have fewer repeat claimants compared to the state average.

## Total Claims

**Figure 3-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 1,370 claims were filed each month in the Greenville WIA. Figure 3-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The number of claims filed in the Greenville WIA follows a pattern very similar to the overall statewide pattern.

## Age

**Table 3-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

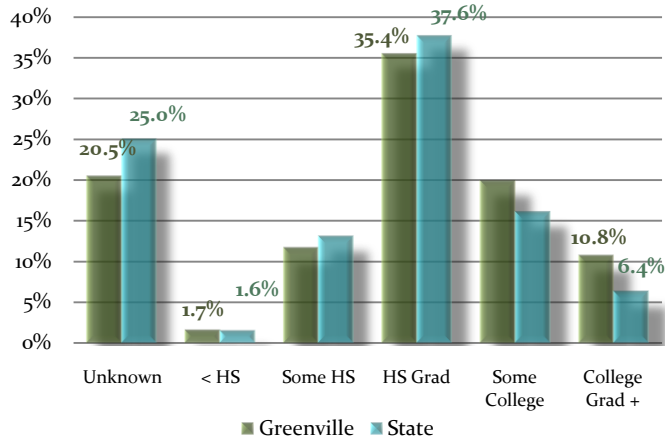
Age Range	% Claims Greenville	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	3.4%	4.6%
21-30	21.5%	23.1%
31-40	20.1%	18.1%
41-50	19.8%	17.8%
51-60	12.7%	11.3%
61-70	3.5%	2.9%
71-80	0.5%	0.4%
81-90	0.1%	0.1%
91+	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	18.6%	21.7%
Average (if known)	39.2	37.9

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Greenville WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 21.5% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was higher by over a year in the Greenville WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 18.6% of claims in Greenville which is somewhat less than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).

## Education

**Figure 3-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

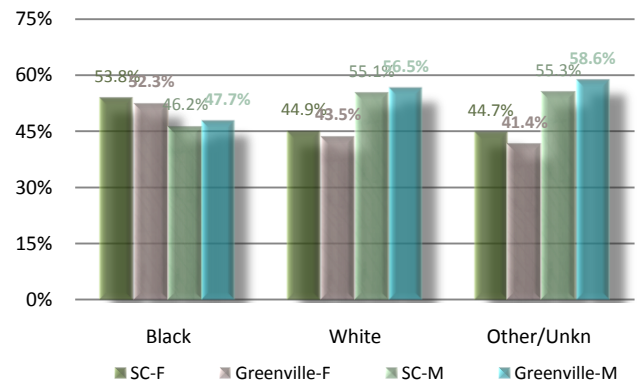


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide but only for 20.5% of claims in Greenville.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Greenville WIA was somewhat higher than the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Greenville:
  - ▶ 13.4% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 35.4% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 30.7% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 3-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in Greenville which is also true of the state overall.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at slightly lower rates than African-American females in Greenville which is similar to the state overall.
- ▶ Males were more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This divergence was more pronounced in Greenville than statewide.

## Filing Method

**Table 3-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Greenville	% Claims Statewide
Employee	83.5%	81.0%
Employer	16.4%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.1%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to only 16.4% in Greenville.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 3-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

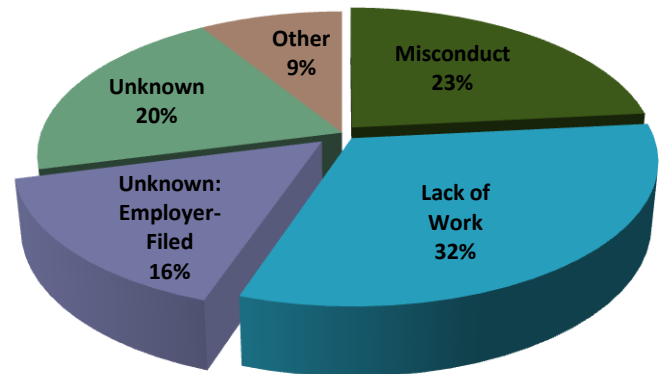
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Manufacturing	47.5%
Agriculture/Hunting	35.1%
Other Services	21.8%
Unknown	16.6%
Construction	14.3%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Greenville WIA are shown in Table 3-3. Nearly half of all claims in the Manufacturing industry between 2006 and 2008 were filed by employers.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 3-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



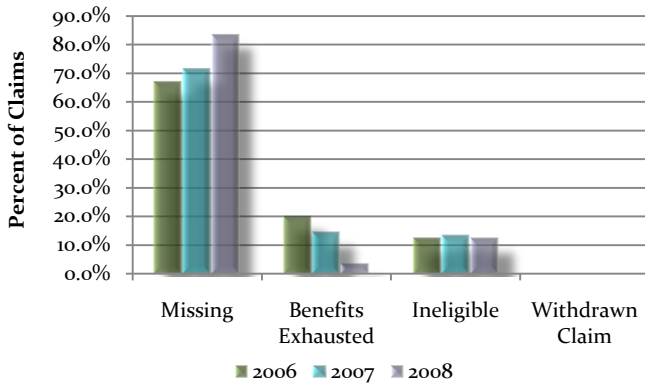
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 49,332 claims filed in the Upstate between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 32% were filed for Lack of Work (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 23% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 9% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 36% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 43.8% of them were filed by employers which equates to 16% of all claims.

## Termination of Benefits Reason

Figure 3-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 75.3% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 67% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 71% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 83% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 11.4% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 20% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 15% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 4% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 13%. By year:
  - ▶ 13% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 14% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 13% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

Table 3-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Administrative and Support Services	8,053	16.3%	13.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	2,975	6.0%	8.1%
Textile Mills	2,932	5.9%	5.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	2,761	5.6%	5.3%
Textile Product Mills	2,104	4.3%	1.9%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	2,030	4.1%	2.4%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	1,687	3.4%	2.7%
Merchant Wholesalers/Durable Goods	1,266	2.6%	1.6%
General Merchandise Stores	1,020	2.1%	2.2%
Truck Transportation	764	1.6%	
Ambulatory Health Care Services	754	1.5%	1.5%
Construction of Buildings	745	1.5%	1.9%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	730	1.5%	2.0%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	720	1.5%	1.3%
UNKNOWN	3,309	6.7%	10.0%

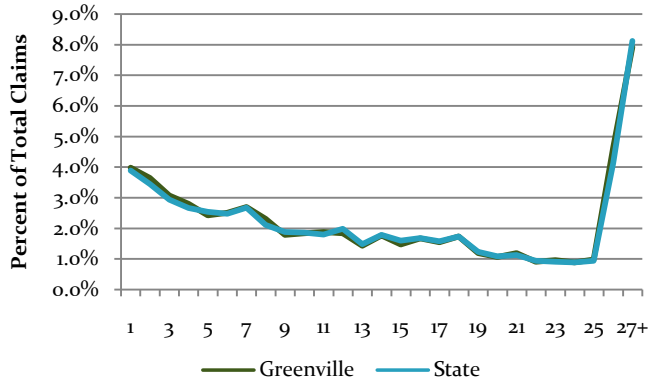
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data.

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 3-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Greenville include Administrative and Support Services (which includes temporary staffing firms).

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Greenville had more claims in:
  - ▶ Administrative and Support Services (16.3% vs. 13.0%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Greenville had fewer unknown industry claims.

## Duration

**Figure 3-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Greenville (15.0) was equal to the statewide average (15.0).

Figure 3-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). The percent of claims by weeks of duration is not significantly different in Greenville compared to the state. About 40% of claims had missing or unknown durations for Greenville and the state.

## Repeat Claims

**Table 3-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Greenville	Statewide
1	77.0%	72.4%
2	18.7%	20.8%
3	4.0%	6.1%
4	0.3%	0.6%
5	0.0%	0.1%
6	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Greenville had slightly more claimants who filed only one claim during this period than the state average.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 3-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Textile Mills	1407.2%
Food Services and Drinking Places	628.6%
Administrative and Support Svcs	57.8%
Textile Product Mills	42.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	39.3%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 3-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Greenville. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Textile Mills and Food Services and Drinking Places industries.



## Key Greenville Characteristics

Central findings for the Greenville WIA include the following points:

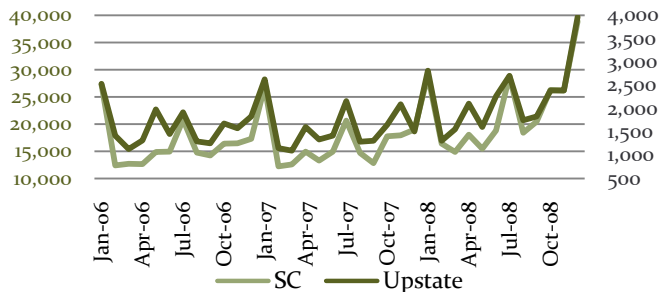
- ✓ The average Greenville claimants were more likely to be male, white, older, and more educated compared to the state average.
- ✓ Greenville had fewer repeat claimants and fewer ineligible claims compared to the state.
- ✓ The Greenville had a higher percentage of its claims in the industry of Administrative Support/Waste Management (including temporary staffing). It had fewer claims in the highly seasonal tourism industry (Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation).
- ✓ Average weeks of receiving benefits were approximately the same as the statewide average.

# Upstate

The Upstate WIA had 65,336 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 46,044 individuals. The Upstate WIA had a higher percentage of white claimants, slightly more less claimants, and higher concentrations in the Manufacturing industry compared to the state. Claimants in this region tended to have more repeat claims with shorter durations compared to the state average.

## Total Claims

**Figure 4-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 1,815 claims were filed each month in the Upstate WIA. Figure 4-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The number of claims filed in the Upstate WIA follows a pattern very similar to the overall statewide pattern with a few exceptions in spring and fall of 2006.

## Age

**Table 4-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

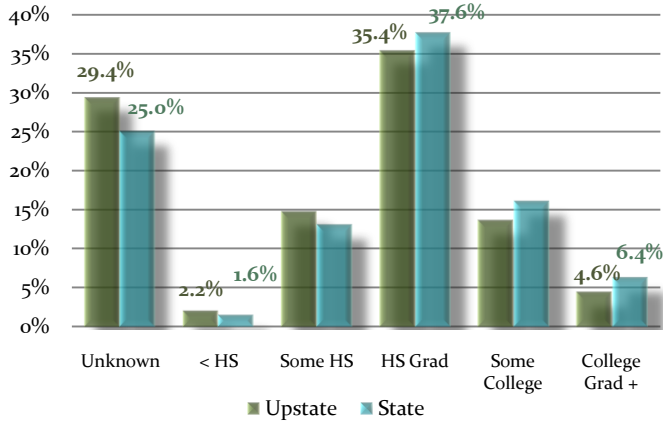
Age Range	% Claims Upstate	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	4.6%	4.6%
21-30	20.6%	23.1%
31-40	17.5%	18.1%
41-50	15.9%	17.8%
51-60	9.6%	11.3%
61-70	2.6%	2.9%
71-80	0.4%	0.4%
81-90	0.1%	0.1%
91+	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	28.6%	21.7%
Average (if known)	37.7	37.9

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Upstate WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 20.6% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was approximately equal in the Upstate WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 28.6% of claims in the Upstate which is significantly more than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).

## Education

**Figure 4-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

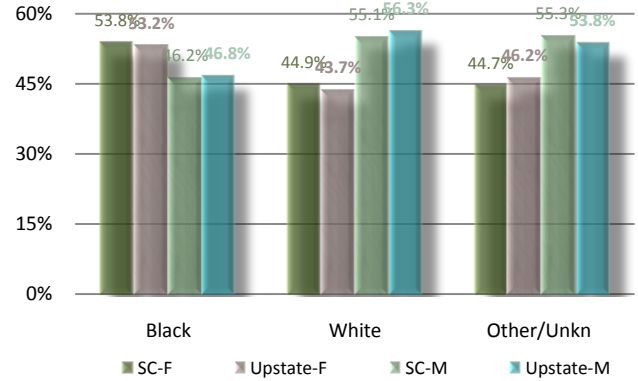


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide but for nearly 30% of claims in the Upstate.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Upstate WIA was slightly lower than the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in the Upstate:
  - ▶ 17.0% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 35.4% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 18.3% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 4-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in the Upstate which is also true of the state overall.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at slightly lower rates than African-American females in the Upstate which is similar to the state overall.
- ▶ Males were more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This divergence was less pronounced in the Upstate than statewide.

## Filing Method

**Table 4-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Upstate	% Claims Statewide
Employee	74.4%	81.0%
Employer	25.4%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.2%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to 25.4% in the Upstate. This is the second highest concentration of employer-filed claims among the 12 WIAs.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 4-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

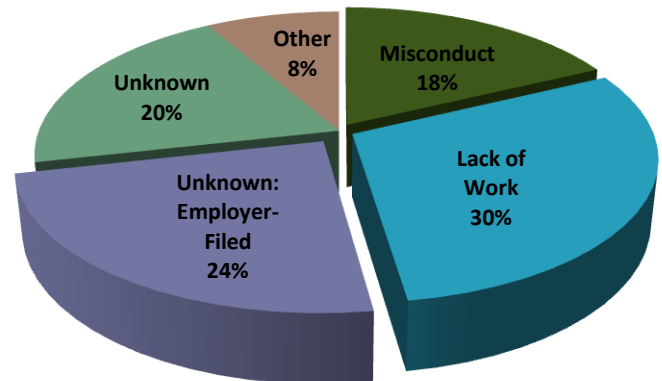
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Manufacturing	56.2%
Mining-Extraction	35.3%
Construction	25.8%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	25.3%
Agriculture-Hunting	20.3%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Upstate WIA are shown in Table 4-3. By far the Manufacturing industry had the highest percentage of its claims filed by employers at 56.2%.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 4-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



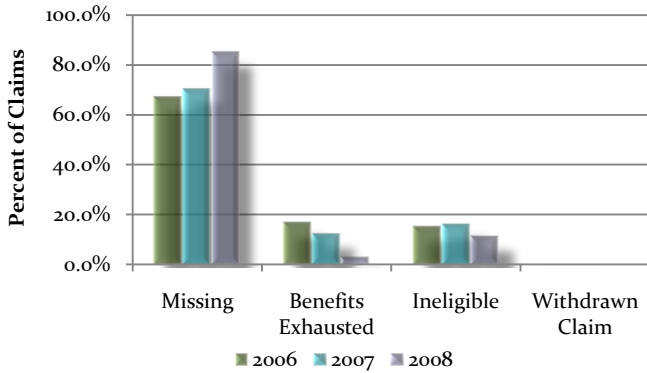
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 65,336 claims filed in the Upstate between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 30% were filed for Lack of Work (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 18% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 8% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 44% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 54.2% of them were filed by employers which equates to 24% of all claims.

## Termination of Benefits Reason

**Figure 4-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 75.2% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 67% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 70% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 85% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 10.2% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 17% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 13% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 3% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 14.3%. By year:
  - ▶ 16% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 17% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 12% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

**Table 4-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Administrative and Support Service	12,183	18.7%	13.0%
Textile Mills	7,081	10.8%	5.7%
Food Services and Drinking Places	4,799	7.4%	8.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	3,649	5.6%	5.3%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	2,302	3.5%	2.7%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	2,292	3.5%	2.0%
Food Manufacturing	1,512	2.3%	1.1%
General Merchandise Stores	1,443	2.2%	2.2%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	1,347	2.1%	2.4%
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	1,310	2.0%	1.3%
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg	1,176	1.8%	0.8%
Truck Transportation	1,042	1.6%	1.1%
Merchant Wholesalers/Durable Goods	968	1.5%	1.6%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	909	1.4%	1.3%
UNKNOWN	4,109	6.3%	10.0%

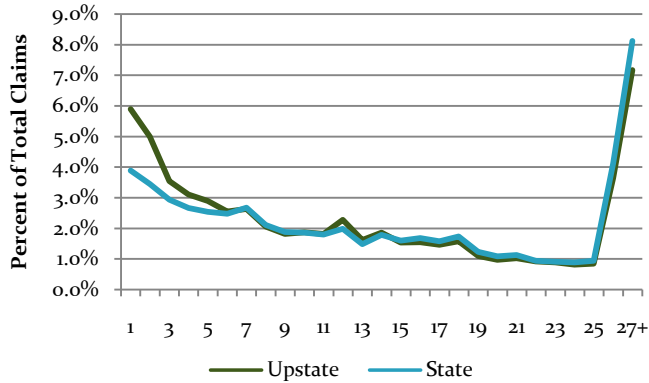
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 4-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in the Upstate include Administrative and Support Services (which includes temporary staffing firms) and Textiles Mills.

- ▶ Compared to the state average, the Upstate had more claims in:
  - ▶ Administrative and Support Services (18.7% vs. 13.0%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, the Upstate had fewer unknown industry claims.

## Duration

**Figure 4-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in the Upstate (13.4) was significantly less than the statewide average (15.0). This is partly due to the large number of claims in the Upstate with durations of 1-5 weeks. Nearly two-thirds of these shorter claims are employer-filed which may be evidence that these claims are associated with temporary furloughs rather than permanent job loss.

Figure 4-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). While about 40% of claims had missing or unknown durations for the state, only 37.6% of Upstate claims had a missing duration value.

## Repeat Claims

**Table 4-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Upstate	Statewide
1	67.5%	72.4%
2	24.7%	20.8%
3	6.9%	6.1%
4	0.8%	0.6%
5	0.1%	0.1%
6	0.1%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

The Upstate had more repeat claimants than the state overall. Nearly 8% of Upstate claimants had 3 or more claims during this time period compared to only 6.8% for the state. This tendency to repeat is most likely related to the large number of employer-filed claims and claims in seasonal industries that occur in the Upstate.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 4-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Transportation Equipment Mfg	239.8%
Textile Mills	205.8%
Administrative and Support Svcs	141.7%
Food Services and Drinking Places	77.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	67.2%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 4-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Upstate. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, Textile Mills, and Administrative and Support Services industries.

## Key Upstate Characteristics

Central findings for the Upstate WIA include the following points:

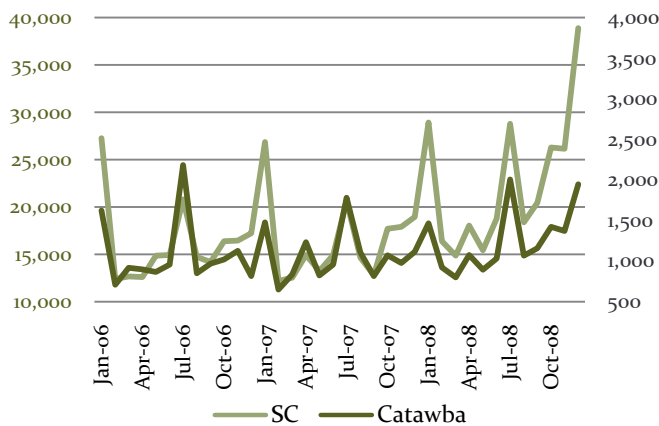
- ✓ Educational attainment is slightly lower in this WIA compared to the state average. Claimants are more likely to be white in the Upstate than the state overall but do not differ significantly on other demographic variables.
- ✓ The Upstate had more repeat claimants compared to most other WIAs and the state overall. This is attributable, in part, to the higher concentration of employment in seasonal industries as well as the higher percentage of employer-filed claims for potentially temporary furloughs.
- ✓ Similar to the finding above, the Upstate claims had a shorter average duration of receiving benefits compared to the state average.

# Catawba

The Catawba WIA had 40,991 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 29,235 individuals. While the Catawba WIA had a high percentage of claims in the Manufacturing industry, there were fewer employer-filed claims in this region compared to other WIAs with similar industry concentrations. Claimants in this region tended to have longer average durations on UI and more repeat claims compared to the state average. Long durations without the ability to find work led to a higher percentage of claims with exhausted UI benefits.

## Total Claims

**Figure 5-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 1,139 claims were filed each month in the Catawba WIA. Figure 5-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The number of claims filed in the Catawba WIA follows a pattern similar to the overall statewide pattern.

## Age

**Table 5-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Catawba	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	4.5%	4.6%
21-30	19.8%	23.1%
31-40	17.1%	18.1%
41-50	18.1%	17.8%
51-60	12.6%	11.3%
61-70	3.3%	2.9%
71-80	0.3%	0.4%
81-90	0.1%	0.1%
91+	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	24.1%	21.7%
Average (if known)	39.0	37.9

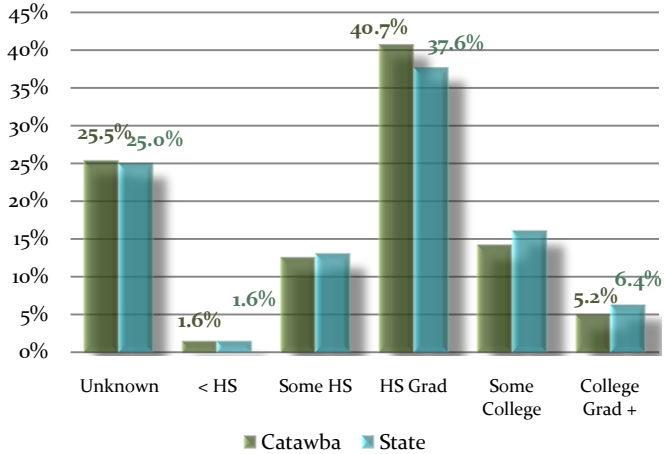
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Catawba WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 19.8% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was higher by about a year in the Catawba WIA compared to the state average due to more claims filed by claimants aged 41-60.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 24.1% of claims in Catawba which is slightly greater than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).



## Education

**Figure 5-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

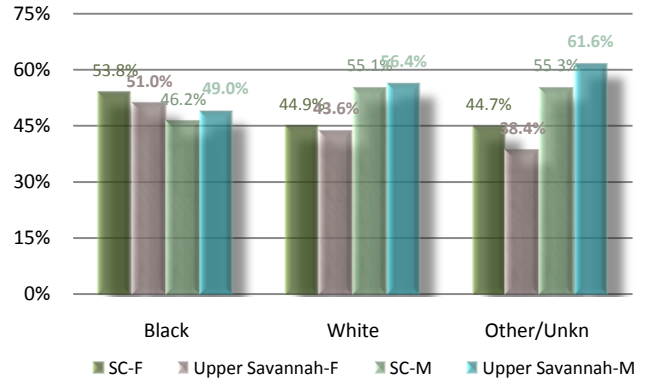


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide which is about the same as Catawba.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Catawba WIA was marginally lower than the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Catawba:
  - ▶ 14.3% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 40.7% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 19.5% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 5-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in Catawba which is also true of the state overall.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at slightly lower rates than African-American females in Catawba but this is less pronounced than the state overall.
- ▶ Males were more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This divergence was more pronounced in Catawba than statewide.

## Filing Method

**Table 5-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Catawba	% Claims Statewide
Employee	81.4%	81.0%
Employer	17.4%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	1.2%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to only 17.4% in Catawba.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 5-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

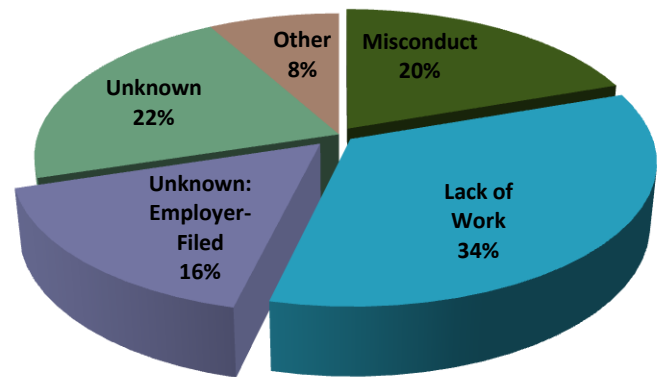
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Manufacturing	35.4%
Mining-Extraction	30.0%
Agriculture/Hunting	27.4%
Transportation/Warehousing	24.4%
Construction	22.9%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Catawba WIA are shown in Table 5-3. Significantly fewer employer-filed claims occur in this WIA compared to other WIAs and statewide.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 5-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



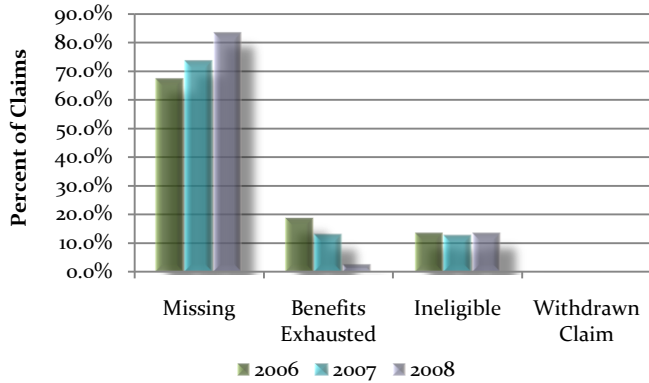
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 40,991 claims filed in Catawba between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 34% were filed for Lack of Work (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 20% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 8% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 38% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 43.1% of them were filed by employers which equates to 16% of all claims.

## Termination of Benefits Reason

**Figure 5-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 74.5% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 65% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 71% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 86% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 15.1% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 24% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 18% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 4% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 9.2%. By year:
  - ▶ 10% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 9% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 9% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

**Table 5-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Textile Product Mills	6,073	14.8%	1.9%
Administrative and Support Services	5,170	12.6%	13.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	2,157	5.3%	8.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	1,924	4.7%	5.3%
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	1,384	3.4%	0.8%
Textile Mills	1,239	3.0%	5.7%
Electrical Equipment, Appliance	875	2.1%	0.6%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	842	2.1%	2.7%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	809	2.0%	2.4%
General Merchandise Stores	767	1.9%	2.2%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	766	1.9%	2.0%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	701	1.7%	0.4%
Merchant Wholesalers/Durable Goods	695	1.7%	1.6%
Social Assistance	648	1.6%	1.4%
UNKNOWN	4,602	11.2%	10.0%

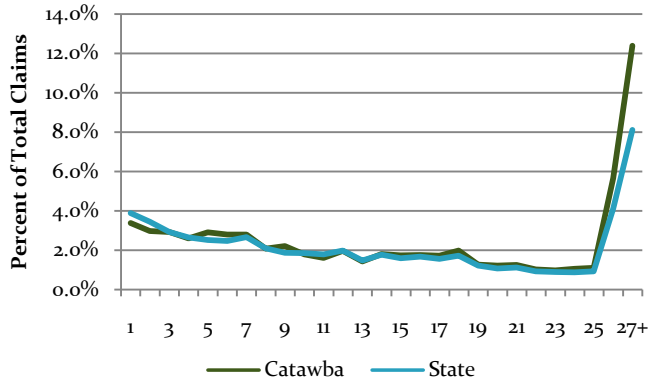
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 5-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Catawba include Textile Product Mills and Administrative and Support Services (which includes temporary staffing firms).

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Catawba had more claims in:
  - ▶ Textile Product Mills (14.8% vs. 1.9%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Catawba had fewer Food Services and Drinking Places industries.

## Duration

**Figure 5-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Catawba (16.9) was much higher than the statewide average (15.0). This may indicate a more serious structural unemployment problem with claimants who are unable to find employment even after long periods of job search.

Figure 5-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). More claims in Catawba had the full 26 weeks or more of benefits compared to the state. About 40% of claims had missing or unknown durations for the state while the Catawba WIA had missing duration information for only 33.6% of claims.

## Repeat Claims

**Table 5-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Catawba	Statewide
1	68.4%	72.4%
2	23.4%	20.8%
3	7.6%	6.1%
4	0.5%	0.6%
5	0.1%	0.1%
6	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Catawba had more claimants who filed more than one claim during this period than the state average. About 8.2% of claimants filed three or more claims in Catawba compared to only 6.8% in the state.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 5-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Administrative and Support Svcs	342.9%
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Mfg	98.9%
Food Services and Drinking Places	87.2%
Textile Product Mills	72.0%
Specialty Trade Contractors	54.7%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 5-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Catawba. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Administrative and Support Services industry.

## Key Catawba Characteristics

Central findings for the Catawba WIA include the following points:

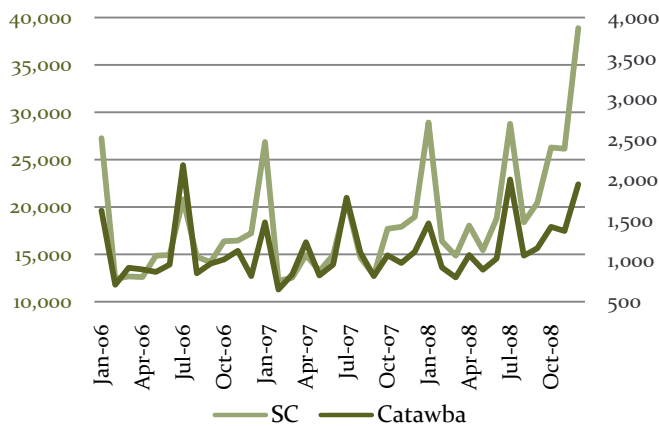
- ✓ Demographic characteristics were not significantly different in Catawba compared to the state except for slightly lower levels of education in Catawba.
- ✓ More claims citing lack of work as separation reason and more claims with long durations combined to generate more claims that exhausted their UI benefits compared to the state average.
- ✓ Although the number of claims filed in the manufacturing industry was high in Catawba, there were smaller numbers of employer-filed claims compared to other WIAs with similar industry concentrations.

# Upper Savannah

The Upper Savannah WIA had 45,889 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 32,983 individuals. Claims in the Upper Savannah are more likely to be employer-filed, from the Manufacturing industry, have shorter durations, and be a repeat claims. This is evidence that the UI system in this WIA may act as a short term safety net during seasonal temporary furloughs. There are no major demographic differences between this WIA and the state average.

## Total Claims

**Figure 6-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 1,275 claims were filed each month in the Upper Savannah WIA. Figure 6-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The number of claims filed in the Upper Savannah WIA follows a pattern similar to the overall statewide pattern except for an unmatched spike in fall 2006 and a slower rise in claims in late 2008.

## Age

**Table 6-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

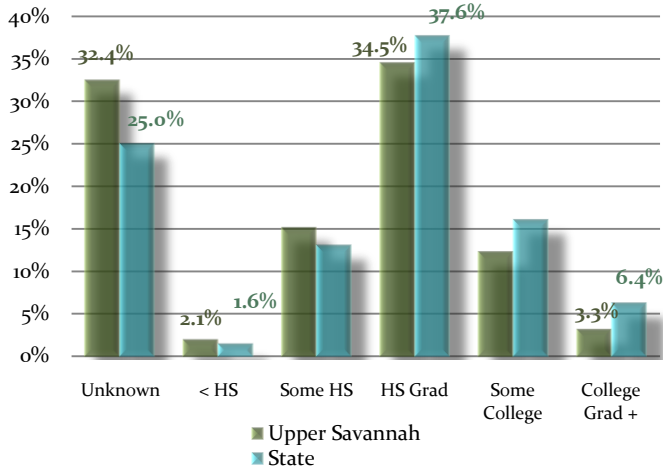
Age Range	% Claims Upper Sav	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	4.5%	4.6%
21-30	20.5%	23.1%
31-40	15.7%	18.1%
41-50	15.0%	17.8%
51-60	9.6%	11.3%
61-70	2.6%	2.9%
71-80	0.3%	0.4%
81-90	0.0%	0.1%
91+	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	31.7%	21.7%
Average (if known)	37.6	37.9

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Upper Savannah WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 20.5% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was about the same in the Upper Savannah WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 31.7% of claims in Upper Savannah which is significantly greater than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).

## Education

**Figure 6-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

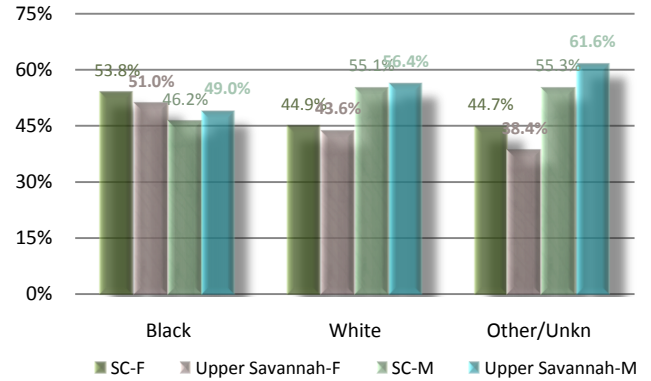


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide compared to 32.4% in the Upper Savannah.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Upper Savannah WIA was marginally lower than the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Upper Savannah:
  - ▶ 17.4% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 34.5% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 15.7% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 6-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in the Upper Savannah which is also true of the state overall.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at slightly lower rates than African-American females in Upper Savannah, but this is less pronounced than the state overall.
- ▶ Males were more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This divergence was more pronounced in the Upper Savannah than statewide.

## Filing Method

**Table 6-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Upper Sav	% Claims Statewide
Employee	73.5%	81.0%
Employer	26.4%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.1%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to 26.4% in the Upper Savannah—this is the second highest percentage among all WIAs.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 6-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

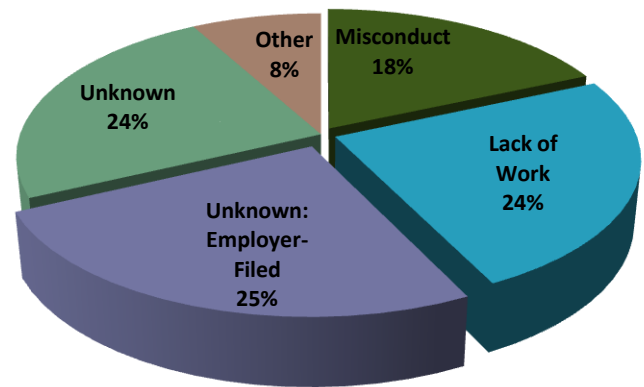
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Manufacturing	50.1%
Mining-Extraction	36.8%
Construction	29.0%
Unknown	19.9%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	15.7%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Upper Savannah WIA are shown in Table 6-3. Just over half of all claims in Manufacturing are filed by employers. The percentages drop dramatically for other industries although they are highest in industries that may be considered seasonal.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 6-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

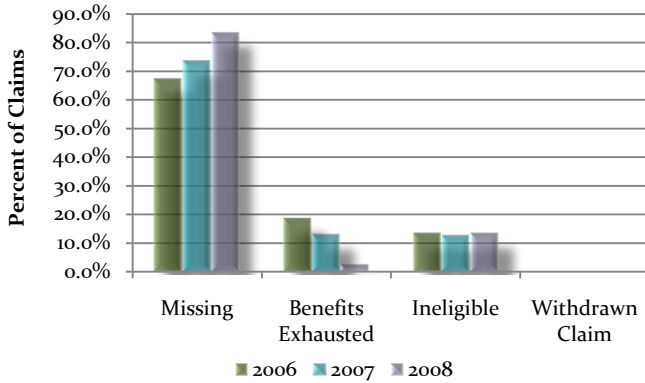
For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 45,889 claims filed in Upper Savannah between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 24% were filed for Lack of Work—the lowest of all WIAs (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 18% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 8% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 49% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 51.3% of them were filed by employers which equates to 25% of all claims.



## Termination of Benefits Reason

**Figure 6-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 73.9% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 67% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 70% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 83% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 11.4% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 18% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 15% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 3% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 14.5%. By year:
  - ▶ 15% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 15% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 14% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

**Table 6-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Administrative and Support Service	6,547	14.3%	13.0%
Textile Mills	5,524	12.0%	5.7%
Food Services and Drinking Places	2,838	6.2%	8.1%
Food Manufacturing	2,047	4.5%	1.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	1,948	4.3%	5.3%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	1,899	4.1%	2.0%
Apparel Manufacturing	1,495	3.3%	0.9%
General Merchandise Stores	1,479	3.2%	2.2%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Const	1,304	2.8%	1.3%
Nursing and Residential Care	979	2.1%	1.5%
Wood Product Manufacturing	929	2.0%	0.8%
Plastics and Rubber Products Mfg	909	2.0%	1.3%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	815	1.8%	2.7%
Chemical Manufacturing	804	1.8%	0.9%
UNKNOWN	2,937	6.4%	10.0%

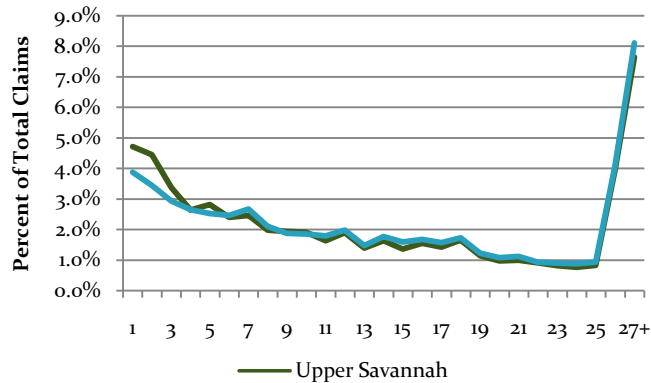
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 6-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Upper Savannah include Administrative and Support Services (which includes temporary staffing firms) and Textile Mills.

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Upper Savannah had more claims in:
  - ▶ Textile Mills (14.3% vs. 5.7%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Upper Savannah had fewer Food Service and Drinking Places claims.

## Duration

**Figure 6-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Upper Savannah (14.2) was somewhat lower than the statewide average (15.0). The larger number of claims receiving benefits for less than 5 weeks accounts for this lower average. Of those claims with less than 5 weeks duration, 63.1% were employer-filed potentially indicating a temporary furlough situation.

Figure 6-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). Equal percentages of claims had missing duration information statewide and in the Upper Savannah.

## Repeat Claims

**Table 6-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Upper Sav	Statewide
1	68.4%	72.4%
2	24.4%	20.8%
3	6.4%	6.1%
4	0.6%	0.6%
5	0.2%	0.1%
6	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Upper Savannah had slightly more claimants who filed more than one claim during this period than the state average. About 7.2% of claimants filed three or more claims in Upper Savannah compared to only 6.8% in the state.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 6-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Textile Mills	2011.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	154.1%
Administrative and Support Svcs	137.4%
Food Services and Drinking Places	66.1%
Food Manufacturing	61.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 6-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Upper Savannah. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Textile Mills industry. While 43 claims were filed in February for this industry, 908 claims were filed in January.

## Key Upper Savannah Characteristics

Central findings for the Upper Savannah WIA include the following points:

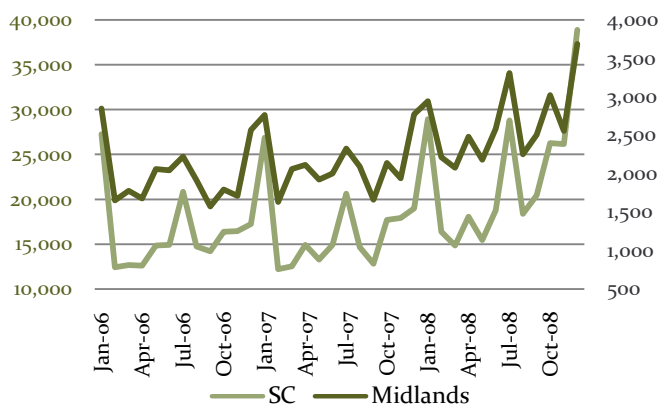
- ✓ Demographic characteristics were not significantly different in Upper Savannah compared to the state except for slightly lower levels of education in Upper Savannah.
- ✓ This region tended to have more repeat, shorter duration claims than the state average. This is can be partly attributed to a higher concentration in manufacturing and a high percentage of employer-filed claims.
- ✓ The Upper Savannah had the lowest percentage of claims citing Lack of Work as their reason for separation of all WIAs.

# Midlands

The Midlands WIA had 81,020 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 60,952 individuals. Midlands claimants were more likely to be female, African-American, and more educated than the state average. The WIA had fewer employer-filed and repeat claims compared to other WIAs. Claims in this WIA tended to be longer than the statewide average. This is most likely due to the lower concentration of claims in industries that experience periodic fluctuations in labor demand on a seasonal basis.

## Total Claims

**Figure 7-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 2,251 claims were filed each month in the Midlands WIA. Figure 7-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The claims in the Midlands do not follow the state pattern as closely as other WIAs. Although there are still spikes in January each year for the Midlands, there is more sustained UI activity throughout the other months. The Midlands may not experience as many predictable fluctuations in labor demand.

## Age

**Table 7-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

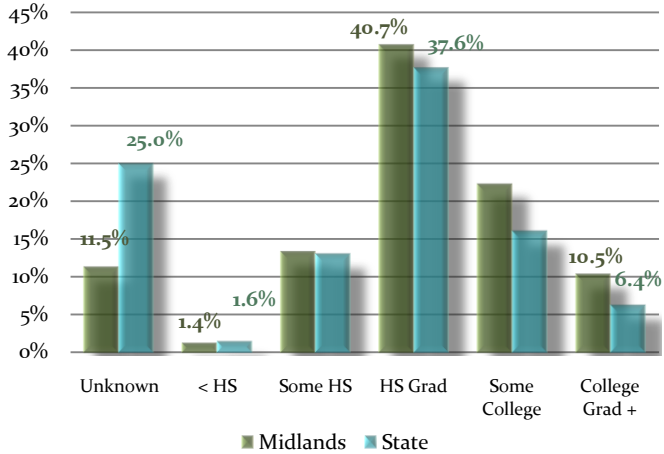
Age Range	% Claims Midlands	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	5.4%	4.6%
21-30	27.6%	23.1%
31-40	21.5%	18.1%
41-50	20.8%	17.8%
51-60	12.6%	11.3%
61-70	2.4%	2.9%
71-80	0.3%	0.4%
81-90	0.1%	0.1%
91+	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	9.3%	21.7%
Average (if known)	37.3	37.9

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Midlands WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 27.6% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was about the same in the Midlands WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 9.3% of claims in the Midlands which is significantly lower than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%) and also the lowest among any WIAs.

## Education

**Figure 7-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

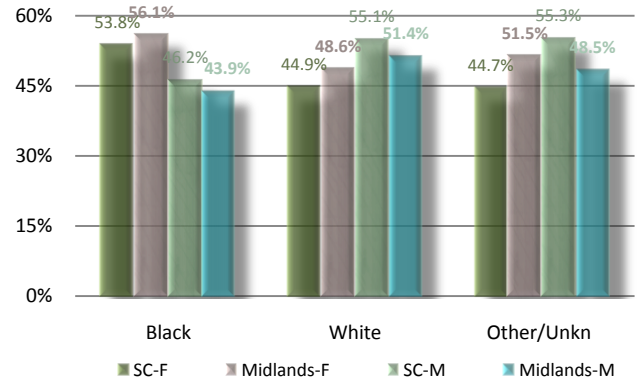


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide compared to only 11.5% in the Midlands.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Midlands WIA was the second highest among all WIAs and higher than the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Midlands:
  - ▶ 14.9% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 40.7% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 32.9% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 7-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at slightly higher rates than Caucasian females in the Midlands, but this is less pronounced than the differential statewide.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at much lower rates than African-American females in Midlands, and this is more pronounced than the state overall.
- ▶ Females were more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This divergence was similar in magnitude to the statewide numbers but in the opposite direction.

## Filing Method

**Table 7-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Midlands	% Claims Statewide
Employee	91.5%	81.0%
Employer	8.4%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.1%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to 8.4% in the Midlands—this is the second lowest percentage among all WIAs.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 7-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

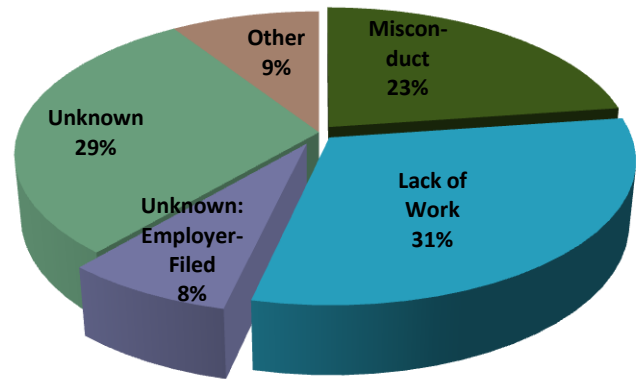
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	30.6%
Manufacturing	25.4%
Construction	5.2%
Other Services	4.7%
Mining-Extraction	4.7%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Midlands WIA are shown in Table 7-3. There are very few employer-filed claims in general in this WIA. The highest concentration of employer-filed claims is for the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation industry with 30.6% of those claims.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 7-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



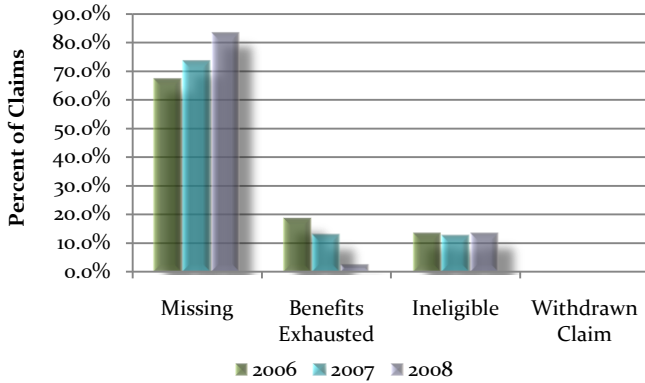
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 81,020 claims filed in the Midlands between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 31% were filed for Lack of Work—the lowest of all WIAs (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 23% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 9% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 37% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 20.7% of them were filed by employers which equates to only 8% of all claims.

## Termination of Benefits Reason

Figure 7-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 65.2% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 57% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 62% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 74% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 10.7% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 17% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 13% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 4% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 23.9%. By year:
  - ▶ 26% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 25% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 22% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

Table 7-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Administrative and Support Services	10,790	13.3%	13.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	10,429	12.9%	8.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	3,345	4.1%	5.3%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	2,272	2.8%	2.4%
General Merchandise Stores	2,120	2.6%	2.2%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	1,761	2.2%	1.5%
Educational Services	1,736	2.1%	1.5%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	1,657	2.1%	1.6%
Construction of Buildings	1,391	1.7%	1.9%
Nursing and Residential Care	1,321	1.6%	1.5%
Insurance Carriers and Related Act	1,288	1.6%	0.6%
Gasoline Stations	1,271	1.6%	1.4%
Credit Intermediation and Related	1,266	1.6%	1.1%
Accommodation	1,255	1.6%	2.2%
UNKNOWN	12,538	15.5%	10.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 7-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Midlands include Unknown and Food Services and Drinking Places.

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Midlands had more claims in:
  - ▶ Unknown (15.5% vs. 10.0%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Midlands had fewer Specialty Trade Contractors industry claims.

## Duration

**Figure 7-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Midlands (16.0) was higher than the statewide average (15.0). The Midlands had lower percentage of claims with short duration compared to the state.

Figure 7-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). A much larger number of claims in the Midlands WIA had missing duration information (50.3%) compared to the state (40.5%).

## Repeat Claims

**Table 7-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Midlands	Statewide
1	74.4%	72.4%
2	19.9%	20.8%
3	4.8%	6.1%
4	0.7%	0.6%
5	0.2%	0.1%
6	0.1%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Midlands had slightly more claimants who filed only one claim during this period than the state average. About 5.7% of claimants filed three or more claims in Midlands compared to 6.8% in the state.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 7-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
General Merchandise Stores	292.6%
Administrative and Support Svcs	49.8%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	35.1%
Food Services and Drinking Places	23.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	11.1%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 7-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Midlands. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the General Merchandise Stores. There is not much evidence of extreme seasonality in the other four largest industries.



## Key Midlands Characteristics

Central findings for the Midlands WIA include the following points:

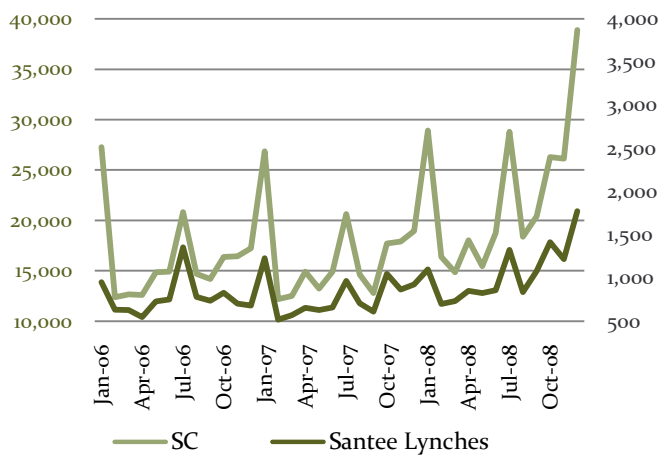
- ✓ Compared to the state average, the Midlands WIA had more female claimants and African-American claimants.
- ✓ Like other urban areas, the Midlands had slightly more educated claimants.
- ✓ Fewer repeat and employer-filed claims in this WIA resulted in claims with longer durations, possibly indicating permanent job loss compared to temporary layoffs.
- ✓ The Midlands did not have high concentrations of claims in the Manufacturing and Administrative Support/Waste Management industries.

# Santee-Lynches

The Santee-Lynches WIA had 31,462 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 23,529 individuals. Santee-Lynches had more male and African-American claimants compared to the state average. Claims were concentrated in the Manufacturing industry, but the WIA did not experience greater than average percentages of repeat, employer-filed, or short duration claims. Employee-filed, longer duration claims may indicate permanent job loss rather than periodic, temporary furloughs due to seasonal fluctuations in labor demand.

## Total Claims

**Figure 8-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 874 claims were filed each month in the Santee-Lynches WIA. Figure 8-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The claims in the Santee-Lynches WIA follow a similar pattern to the statewide claims with slightly smaller spikes in January.

## Age

**Table 8-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

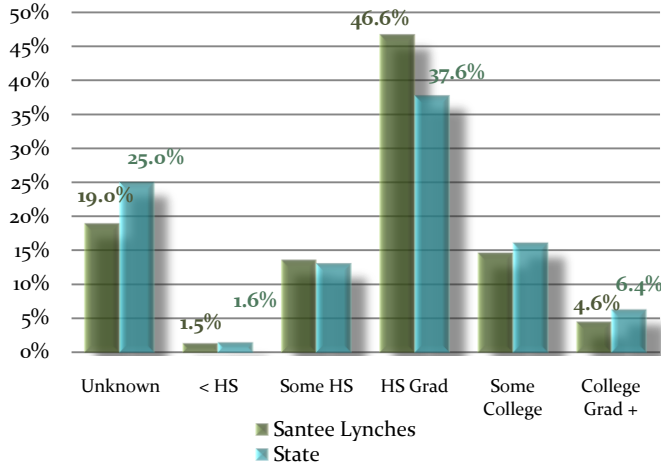
Age Range	% Claims San-Ly	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	5.0%	4.6%
21-30	25.1%	23.1%
31-40	17.3%	18.1%
41-50	18.7%	17.8%
51-60	11.1%	11.3%
61-70	2.7%	2.9%
71-80	0.4%	0.4%
81-90	0.1%	0.1%
91+	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	19.6%	21.7%
Average (if known)	37.5	37.9

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Santee-Lynches WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 25.1% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was about the same in the Santee-Lynches WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 19.6% of claims in Santee-Lynches which is slightly lower than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).

## Education

**Figure 8-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

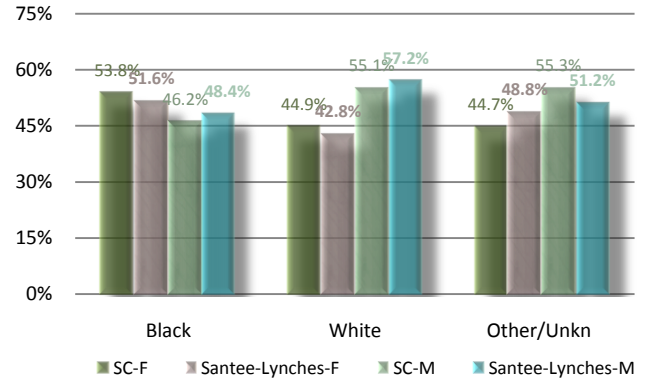


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide compared to only 19.0% in Santee-Lynches.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Santee-Lynches WIA was about the same as the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Santee-Lynches:
  - ▶ 15.1% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 46.6% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 19.4% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 8-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in Santee-Lynches; this difference is more pronounced than the state average.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at lower rates than African-American females in Santee-Lynches, but this is less pronounced than the state overall.
- ▶ Males were more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This divergence was slightly less than statewide.

## Filing Method

**Table 8-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims	
	San-Ly	Statewide
Employee	84.0%	81.0%
Employer	15.8%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.2%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to 15.8% in Santee-Lynches.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 8-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

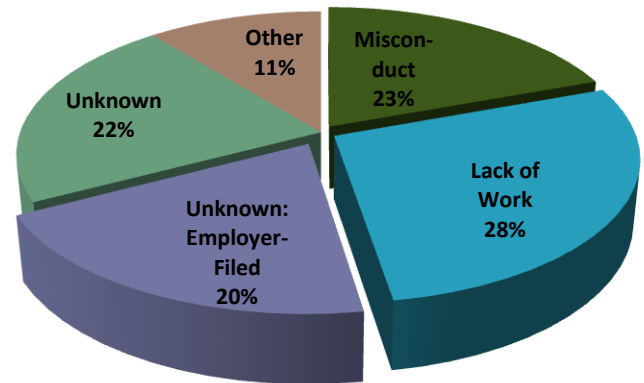
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Manufacturing	43.3%
Other Services	23.0%
Construction	17.9%
Mining-Extraction	16.4%
Transportation/Warehousing	13.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Santee-Lynches WIA are shown in Table 8-3. There are fewer employer-filed claims in general in this WIA. The highest concentration of employer-filed claims is for the Manufacturing industry with 43.3% of those claims.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 8-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



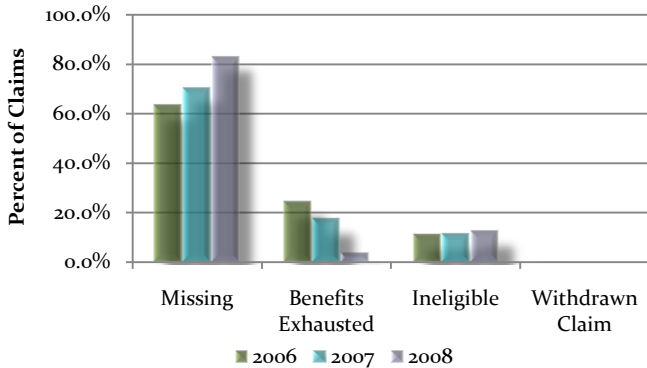
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 31,462 claims filed in Santee-Lynches between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 32% were filed for Lack of Work (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 23% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 10% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 35% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 42.9% of them were filed by employers which equates to 20% of all claims.

## Termination of Benefits Reason

**Figure 8-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 73.4% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 63% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 70% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 83% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 14.2% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 25% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 18% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 4% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 12.2%. By year:
  - ▶ 12% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 12% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 13% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

**Table 8-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Administrative and Support Services	3,524	11.2%	13.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	1,875	6.0%	8.1%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	1,865	5.9%	2.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	1,703	5.4%	5.3%
Chemical Manufacturing	932	3.0%	0.9%
Construction of Buildings	857	2.7%	1.9%
General Merchandise Stores	800	2.5%	2.2%
Textile Product Mills	792	2.5%	1.9%
Textile Mills	719	2.3%	5.7%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	718	2.3%	0.4%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	689	2.2%	2.0%
Warehousing and Storage	662	2.1%	0.6%
Educational Services	639	2.0%	1.5%
Gasoline Stations	631	2.0%	1.4%
UNKNOWN	2,618	8.3%	10.0%

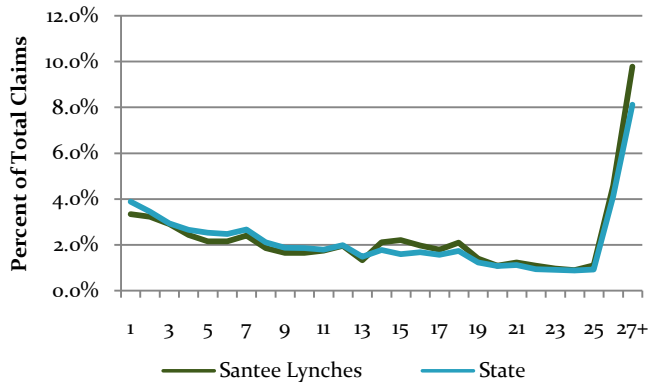
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 8-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Santee-Lynches include Administrative and Support Services and Food Services and Drinking Places.

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Santee-Lynches had more claims in:
  - ▶ Transportation Equipment Manufacturing (5.9% vs. 2.7%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Santee-Lynches had fewer Food Services and Drinking Places industry claims.

## Duration

**Figure 8-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Santee-Lynches (16.3) was higher than the statewide average (15.0). Santee-Lynches had slightly higher percentages of claims with 15-19 weeks and 26+ weeks of duration.

Figure 8-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). There were not significant differences in the amount of missing duration information for Santee-Lynches (38.6%) compared to the state (40.5%).

## Repeat Claims

**Table 8-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	San-Ly	Statewide
1	73.3%	72.4%
2	20.6%	20.8%
3	5.6%	6.1%
4	0.4%	0.6%
5	0.1%	0.1%
6	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

There were not significant differences between Santee-Lynches and the state in terms of repeat claims. About 6.1% of claimants filed three or more claims in Santee-Lynches compared to 6.8% in the state.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 8-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Transportation Equipment Mfg	288.3%
Food Services and Drinking Places	108.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	51.5%
Administrative and Support Svcs	43.8%
Chemical Manufacturing	42.1%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 8-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Santee-Lynches. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Transportation Equipment Manufacturing industry.

## Key Santee-Lynches Characteristics

Central findings for the Santee-Lynches WIA include the following points:

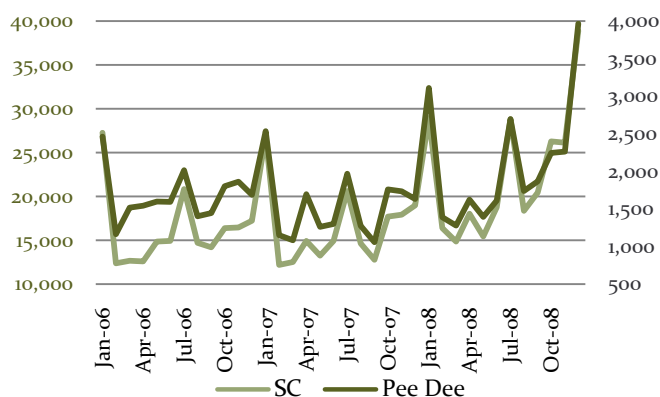
- ✓ Compared to the state average, the Santee-Lynches WIA had more male claimants and African-American claimants.
- ✓ While there was a large concentration of claims in the Manufacturing industry, this WIA did not have significantly more repeat claims, employer-filed claims, or short duration claims compared to the state average.
- ✓ Slightly more employee-filed claims were filed in this WIA and the average claim duration was slightly higher than the state's.

# Pee Dee

The Pee Dee WIA had 63,741 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 44,263 individuals. The Pee Dee WIA faced the unique combination of both frequent repeat claims and claims with longer than average duration. Typically, WIAs with high concentrations of employment in the Manufacturing industry are characterized by multiple, short spells of unemployment. This may signify more serious labor market disruptions. Claimants in the Pee Dee also tend to be younger, less educated, more likely to be African American, and more likely to be male compared to the state averages.

## Total Claims

**Figure 9-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 1,771 claims were filed each month in the Pee Dee WIA. Figure 9-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The claims in the Pee Dee WIA follow a similar pattern to the statewide claims.

## Age

**Table 9-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Pee Dee	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	4.9%	4.6%
21-30	23.8%	23.1%
31-40	17.6%	18.1%
41-50	15.9%	17.8%
51-60	9.8%	11.3%
61-70	2.5%	2.9%
71-80	0.4%	0.4%
81-90	0.0%	0.1%
91+	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	25.1%	21.7%
Average (if known)	37.0	37.9

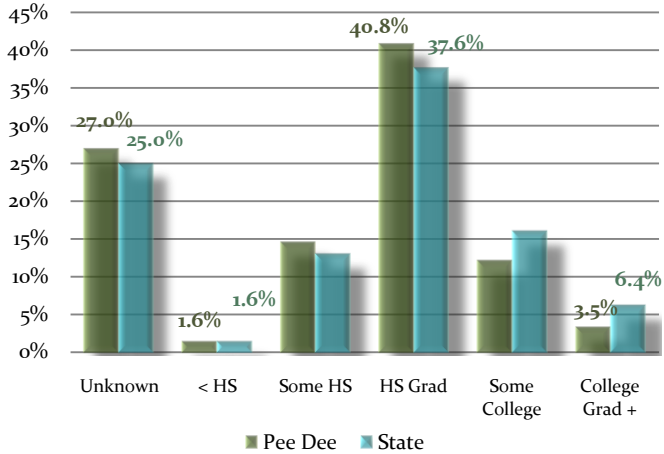
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Pee Dee WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 23.8% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was almost one year younger in the Pee Dee WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 25.1% of claims in Pee Dee which is slightly higher than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).



## Education

**Figure 9-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

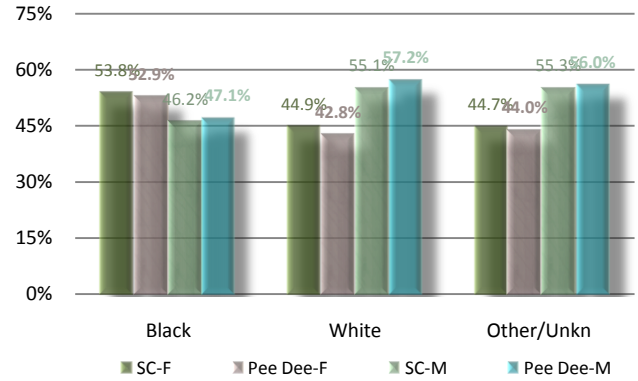


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide compared to 27.0% in Pee Dee.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Pee Dee WIA was slightly lower than the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Pee Dee:
  - ▶ 16.3% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 40.8% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 15.9% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 9-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in Pee Dee; this difference is more pronounced than the state average.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at lower rates than African-American females in Pee Dee, which is about the same as the state overall.
- ▶ Males were more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This divergence was slightly higher than statewide.

## Filing Method

**Table 9-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Pee Dee	% Claims Statewide
Employee	78.6%	81.0%
Employer	20.9%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.5%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to 20.9% Pee Dee.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 9-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

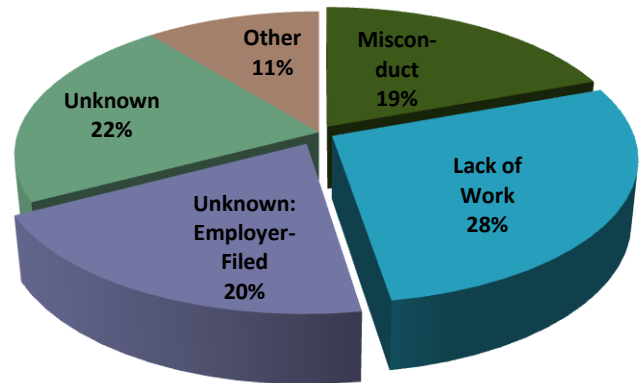
Industry	% Employer- Filed Claims
Manufacturing	51.9%
Other Services	28.3%
Construction	17.3%
Mining-Extraction	15.7%
Unknown	13.2%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Pee Dee WIA are shown in Table 9-3. There are slightly more employer-filed claims in general in this WIA. The highest concentration of employer-filed claims is for the Manufacturing industry with 51.9% of those claims.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 9-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



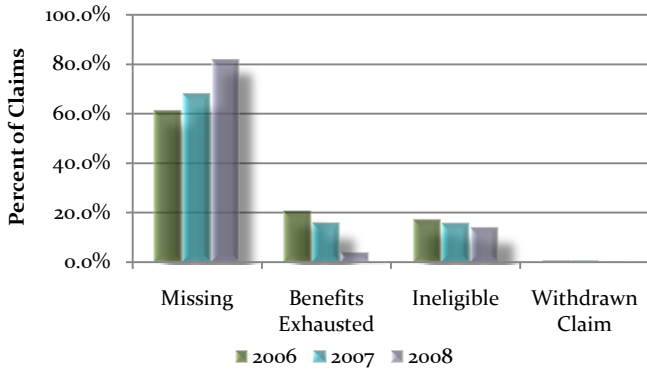
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 63,741 claims filed in Pee Dee between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 28% were filed for Lack of Work (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 19% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 11% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 42% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 47.6% of them were filed by employers which equates to 20% of all claims.

## Termination of Benefits Reason

Figure 9-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 71.1% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 61% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 68% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 82% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 12.8% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 21% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 16% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 4% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 15.6%. By year:
  - ▶ 17% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 16% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 14% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

Table 9-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Administrative and Support Service	7,852	12.3%	13.0%
Textile Mills	6,978	11.0%	5.7%
Food Services and Drinking Places	3,751	5.9%	8.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	3,383	5.3%	5.3%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,362	3.7%	2.7%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	2,177	3.4%	2.0%
Accommodation	1,536	2.4%	2.2%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	1,535	2.4%	1.6%
General Merchandise Stores	1,344	2.1%	2.2%
Nursing and Residential Care	1,108	1.7%	1.5%
Social Assistance	1,087	1.7%	1.4%
Food Manufacturing	1,075	1.7%	1.1%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,062	1.7%	3.0%
Apparel Manufacturing	1,016	1.6%	0.9%
UNKNOWN	5,624	8.8%	10.0%

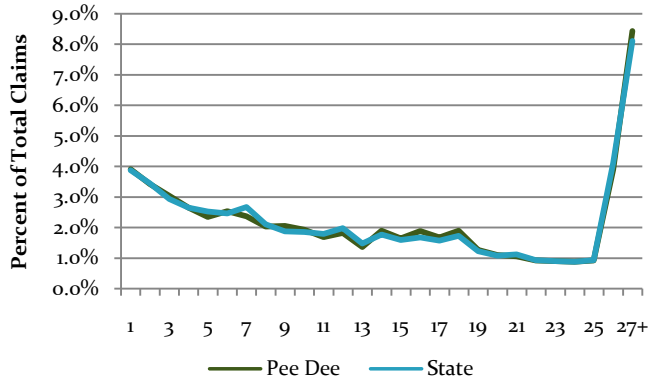
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 9-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Pee Dee include Administrative and Support Services and Textile Mills.

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Pee Dee had more claims in:
  - ▶ Textile Mills (11.0% vs. 5.7%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Pee Dee had fewer Food Services and Drinking Places industry claims.

## Duration

**Figure 9-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Pee Dee (15.1) was similar to the statewide average (15.0).

Figure 9-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). There were not significant differences in the amount of missing duration information for Pee Dee (40.4%) compared to the state (40.5%).

## Repeat Claims

**Table 9-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Pee Dee	Statewide
1	67.2%	72.4%
2	23.4%	20.8%
3	8.3%	6.1%
4	0.9%	0.6%
5	0.2%	0.1%
6	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

More Pee Dee claims were repeat claims compared to the state. About 9.4% of claimants filed three or more claims in Pee Dee (the second highest among all WIAs) compared to only 6.8% in the state.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 9-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Textile Mills	684.9%
Food Services and Drinking Places	308.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	67.5%
Administrative and Support Svcs	53.6%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	45.6%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 9-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Pee Dee. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Textile Mills and Food Services and Drinking Places industries. For Textile Mills, 2,025 claims were filed in January compared to only 258 in February.

## Key Pee Dee Characteristics

Central findings for the Pee Dee WIA include the following points:

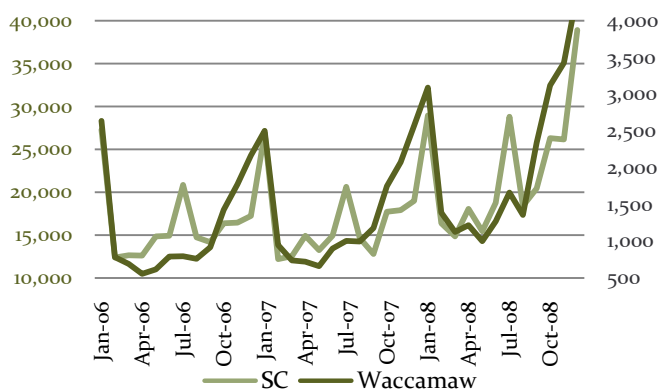
- ✓ Compared to the state average, the Pee Dee WIA had slightly more male claimants and African-American claimants. Educational attainment and age were slightly lower than the state average.
- ✓ While there was a large concentration of claims in the Manufacturing industry, this WIA did not have significantly shorter durations although there were higher concentrations of employer-filed and repeat claims.
- ✓ The combination of repeat spells of long duration is not characteristic of other WIAs with similar industry concentrations. This may indicate unique labor market conditions faced by employees in this region.

# Waccamaw

The Waccamaw WIA had 55,387 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 41,418 individuals. The Waccamaw WIA was very similar to the state overall across a number of categories including gender, age, and educational attainment. There were significantly more white claimants and claims from the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation industry than statewide. This concentration in the tourism industry resulted in less noticeable “spikes” in claims filed in July compared to other WIAs.

## Total Claims

**Figure 10-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 1,539 claims were filed each month in the Waccamaw WIA. Figure 10-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The claims in the Waccamaw WIA exhibit these seasonal spikes in January but not in July, possibly as this coincides with the height of the tourist season.

## Age

**Table 10-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

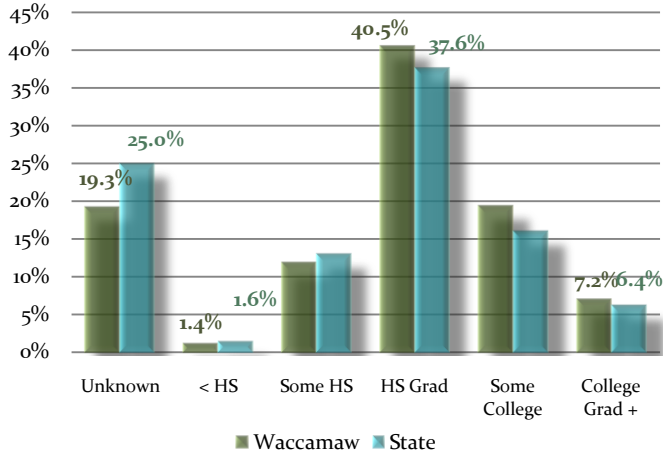
Age Range	% Claims Waccamaw	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	4.7%	4.6%
21-30	23.7%	23.1%
31-40	18.6%	18.1%
41-50	18.1%	17.8%
51-60	11.9%	11.3%
61-70	4.0%	2.9%
71-80	0.9%	0.4%
81-90	0.1%	0.1%
91+	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	18.0%	21.7%
Average (if known)	38.6	37.9

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Waccamaw WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 23.7% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was slightly higher in the Waccamaw WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 18.0% of claims in Waccamaw which is somewhat lower than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).

## Education

**Figure 10-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

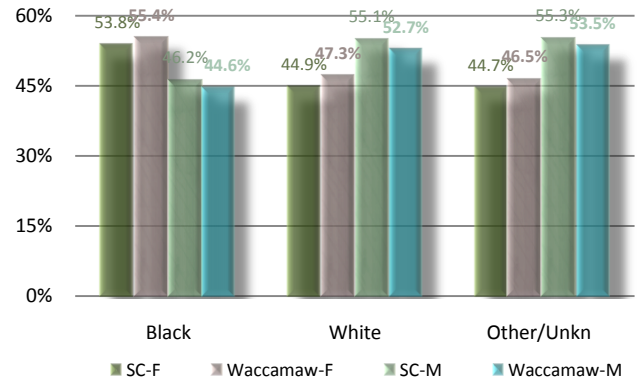


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide compared to 19.3% in Waccamaw.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Waccamaw WIA was not different from the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Waccamaw:
  - ▶ 13.4% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 40.5% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 26.7% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 10-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in Waccamaw; this difference is less pronounced than the state average.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at lower rates than African-American females in Waccamaw, which is slightly more pronounced than the state overall.
- ▶ Males were more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This divergence was slightly less than statewide.

## Filing Method

**Table 10-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Waccamaw	% Claims Statewide
Employee	85.1%	81.0%
Employer	14.8%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.2%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to 14.8% in Waccamaw.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 10-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

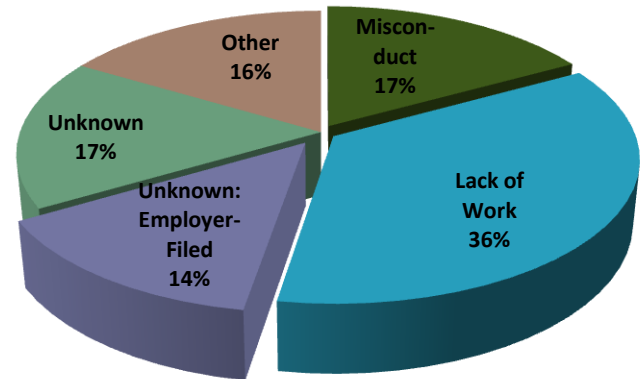
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Manufacturing	43.0%
Agriculture-Hunting	31.7%
Unknown	20.1%
Transportation/Warehousing	18.3%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	17.9%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Waccamaw WIA are shown in Table 10-3. There are slightly fewer employer-filed claims in general in this WIA. The highest concentration of employer-filed claims is for the Manufacturing industry with 43.0% of those claims.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 10-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

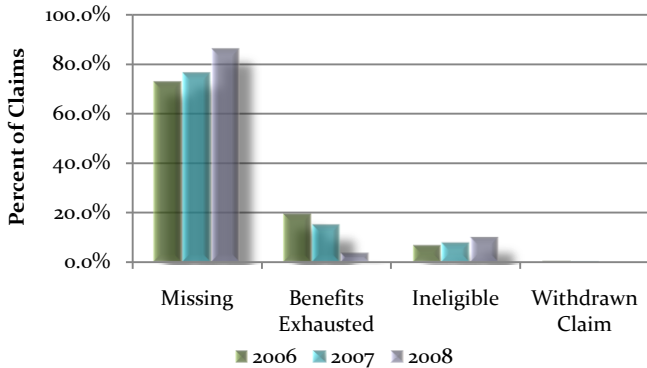
For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 55,387 claims filed in Waccamaw between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 36% were filed for Lack of Work—the highest among all WIAs (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 17% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 16% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 31% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 45.2% of them were filed by employers which equates to 14% of all claims.



## Termination of Benefits Reason

**Figure 10-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 79.7% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 73% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 76% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 86% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 11.1% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 20% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 15% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 4% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 8.8%. By year:
  - ▶ 7% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 8% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 10% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

**Table 10-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Food Services and Drinking Places	9,711	17.5%	8.1%
Accommodation	5,427	9.8%	2.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	4,122	7.4%	5.3%
Administrative and Support Services	3,366	6.1%	13.0%
Real Estate	2,335	4.2%	1.0%
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation	2,290	4.1%	0.7%
Construction of Buildings	1,786	3.2%	1.9%
General Merchandise Stores	1,195	2.2%	2.2%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	1,138	2.1%	2.4%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories	1,101	2.0%	0.8%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	1,000	1.8%	1.3%
Food and Beverage Stores	863	1.6%	1.2%
Social Assistance	861	1.6%	1.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	813	1.5%	1.5%
UNKNOWN	3,124	5.6%	10.0%

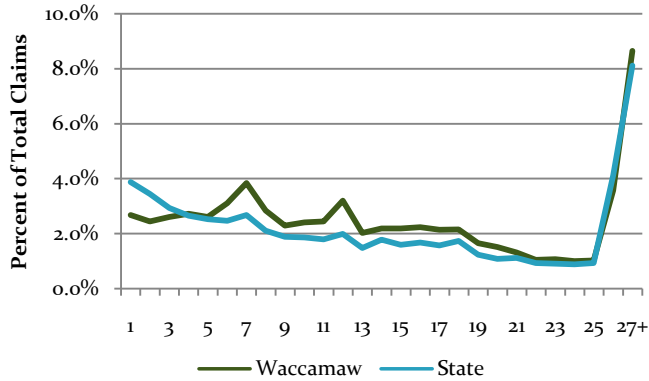
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 10-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Waccamaw include Food Service and Drinking Places and Accommodations.

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Waccamaw had more claims in:
  - ▶ Food Services and Drinking Places (17.5% vs. 8.1%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Waccamaw had fewer Administrative and Support Services industry claims.

## Duration

**Figure 10-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Waccamaw (15.2) was similar to the statewide average (15.0).

Figure 10-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). Waccamaw had slightly more claims with 5-17 weeks of duration compared to the state. Waccamaw had fewer claims with missing duration information (32.8%) compared to the state (40.5%).

## Repeat Claims

**Table 10-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Waccamaw	Statewide
1	73.7%	72.4%
2	19.7%	20.8%
3	6.3%	6.1%
4	0.3%	0.6%
5	0.0%	0.1%
6	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Equal percentage of Waccamaw claims were repeat claims compared to the state. About 6.7% of claimants filed three or more claims in Waccamaw compared to 6.8% in the state.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 10-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Construction of Buildings	260.4%
Real Estate	169.3%
Amusement, Gambling, & Rec	103.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	79.3%
Administrative and Support Svcs	42.8%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 10-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Waccamaw. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Construction of Buildings and Real Estate industries.

## Key Waccamaw Characteristics

Central findings for the Waccamaw WIA include the following points:

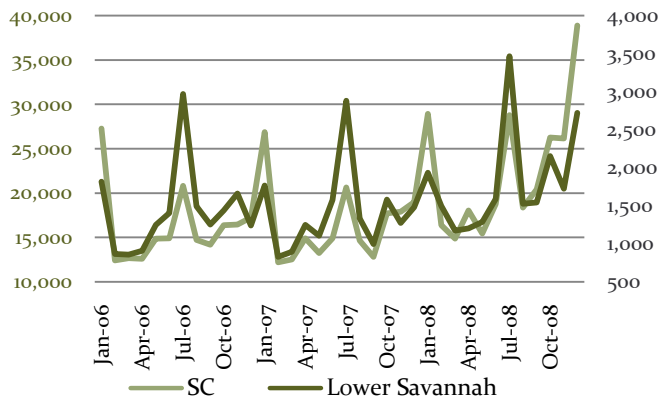
- ✓ Employment concentration in the tourism-influenced industry of Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation resulted in no spikes for claims filed in the month of July each year.
- ✓ Demographic characteristics of Waccamaw claimants were not significantly different from the state.
- ✓ Slightly more employee-filed claims occurred in this WIA compared to the state, but average duration and percentage of repeat claims was equivalent to the statewide average.

# Lower Savannah

The Lower Savannah WIA had 55,908 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 38,500 individuals. The combination of a high percentage of claims in the seasonal Manufacturing industry and large numbers of employer-filed claims led to a higher incidence of repeat claims in Lower Savannah compared to the state average. The WIA is characterized by slightly more female claimants and significantly more African-American claimants than the state overall.

## Total Claims

**Figure 11-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 1,554 claims were filed each month in the Lower Savannah WIA. Figure 11-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The claims in the Lower Savannah WIA follow a similar pattern to the state.

## Age

**Table 11-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

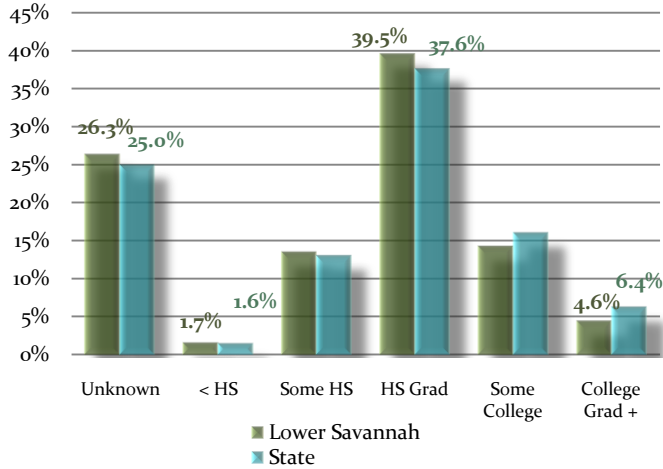
Age Range	% Claims Low Sav	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	5.5%	4.6%
21-30	23.8%	23.1%
31-40	16.2%	18.1%
41-50	15.9%	17.8%
51-60	10.3%	11.3%
61-70	2.3%	2.9%
71-80	0.3%	0.4%
81-90	0.1%	0.1%
91+	0.0%	0.1%
Unknown	25.7%	21.7%
Average (if known)	36.8	37.9

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Lower Savannah WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 23.8% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was about one year younger in the Lower Savannah WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 25.7% of claims in Lower Savannah which is somewhat higher than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).

## Education

**Figure 11-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

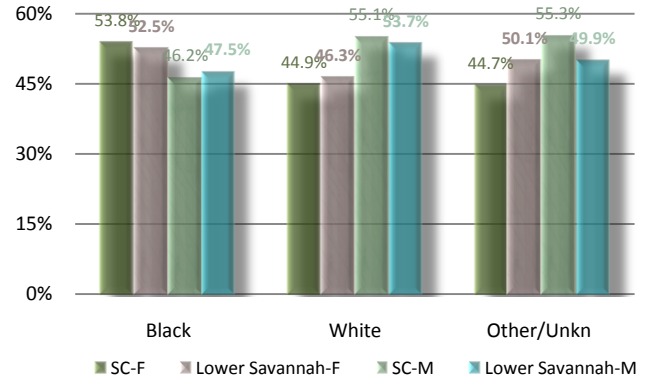


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide compared to 26.3% in Lower Savannah.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Lower Savannah WIA was marginally lower than the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Lower Savannah:
  - ▶ 15.3% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 39.5% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 18.9% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 11-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in Lower Savannah; this difference is less pronounced than the state average.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at lower rates than African-American females in Lower Savannah, which is about the same compared to the state overall.
- ▶ Females were slightly more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This is opposite from the pattern statewide.

## Filing Method

**Table 11-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims	
	Low Sav	Statewide
Employee	75.6%	81.0%
Employer	24.2%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.1%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to 24.2% in Lower Savannah.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 11-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

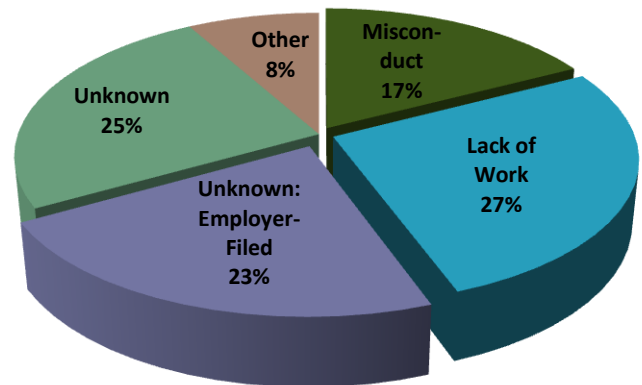
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Manufacturing	55.3%
Other Services	15.7%
Agriculture-Hunting	13.6%
Mining-Extraction	11.3%
Unknown	10.9%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Lower Savannah WIA are shown in Table 11-3. Employer-filed claims are concentrated in the Manufacturing industry with 55.3% of those claims.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 11-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



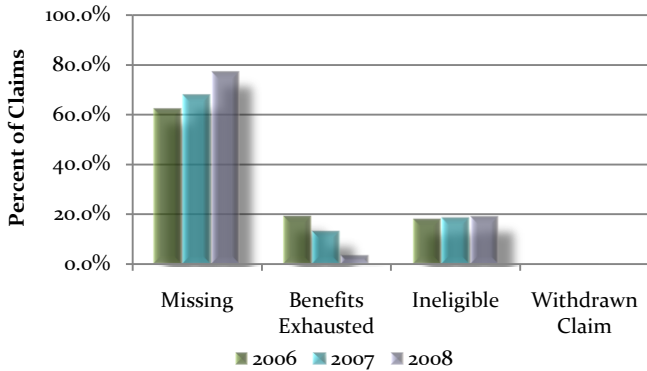
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 55,908 claims filed in Lower Savannah between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 27% were filed for Lack of Work (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 17% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 8% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 48% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 47.3% of them were filed by employers which equates to 23% of all claims.

## Termination of Benefits Reason

**Figure 11-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 69.6% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 62% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 68% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 77% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 11.4% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 10% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 13% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 4% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 18.8%. By year:
  - ▶ 18% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 19% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 19% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

**Table 11-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Machinery Manufacturing	9,829	17.6%	3.0%
Administrative and Support Services	6,229	11.1%	13.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	2,964	5.3%	8.1%
Textile Mills	2,458	4.4%	5.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	1,931	3.5%	5.3%
General Merchandise Stores	1,154	2.1%	2.2%
Apparel Manufacturing	1,105	2.0%	0.9%
Educational Services	1,087	1.9%	1.5%
Construction of Buildings	1,048	1.9%	1.9%
Plastics and Rubber Products Mfg	1,034	1.9%	1.3%
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg	979	1.8%	2.0%
Gasoline Stations	822	1.5%	1.4%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	822	1.5%	2.4%
Social Assistance	794	1.4%	1.4%
UNKNOWN	7,506	13.4%	10.0%

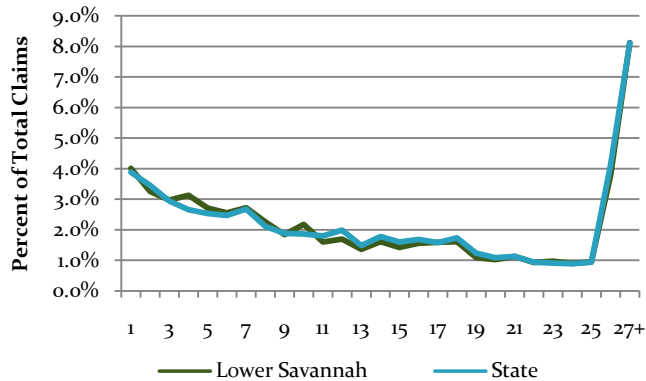
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 11-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Lower Savannah include Machinery Manufacturing and Administrative and Support Services.

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Lower Savannah had more claims in:
  - ▶ Machinery manufacturing (17.6% vs. 3.0%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Lower Savannah had fewer Food Services and Drinking Places industry claims.

## Duration

**Figure 11-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Lower Savannah (14.7) was only marginally lower than the statewide average (15.0).

Figure 11-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). Lower Savannah had slightly more claims with less than 11 weeks of duration compared to the state. Lower Savannah had about the same percentage of claims with missing duration information (40.9%) compared to the state (40.5%).

## Repeat Claims

**Table 11-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Low Sav	Statewide
1	66.1%	72.4%
2	23.7%	20.8%
3	9.1%	6.1%
4	0.8%	0.6%
5	0.2%	0.1%
6	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Lower Savannah had significantly more repeat claims compared to the state. About 10.1% of claimants filed three or more claims in Lower Savannah compared to 6.8% in the state. This figure is the highest of any of the WIAs.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 11-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Administrative and Support Svcs	547.7%
Specialty Trade Contractors	63.4%
Food Services and Drinking Places	62.5%
Machinery Manufacturing	56.8%
Textile Mills	34.3%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 11-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Lower Savannah. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Administrative and Support Services industry. While 557 claims in this industry were filed in January, only 86 were filed in February.



## Key Lower Savannah Characteristics

Central findings for the Lower Savannah WIA include the following points:

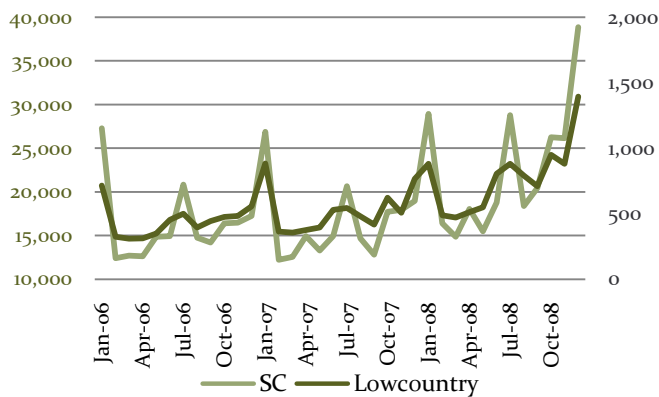
- ✓ This WIA had the lowest percent of claims cite Lack of Work for their separation reason. Compared to other WIAs, Lower Savannah had the highest percentage of African-American claimants. Female claimants were slightly more common than males. Claimants were also somewhat younger and less educated than the state average.
- ✓ High percentages of employer-filed claims and concentrations in the seasonal industry of Manufacturing led to Lower Savannah having the highest percentage of repeat claimants. Unlike other WIAs with Manufacturing concentrations, average duration was not significantly shorter than the state average.
- ✓ Compared to all other WIAs, Lower Savannah had the highest percentage of claims that were ineligible for benefits.

# Lowcountry

The Lowcountry WIA had 20,852 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 16,534 individuals. The Lowcountry had a concentration of claims in the typically seasonal Construction industry, but they were less likely to have repeat claims than the state average. Shorter average durations in this WIA contributed to fewer claims with exhausted UI benefits.

## Total Claims

**Figure 12-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 579 claims were filed each month in the Lowcountry WIA. Figure 12-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The claims in the Lowcountry WIA do not appear as influenced by seasonal variation as the state overall.

## Age

**Table 12-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

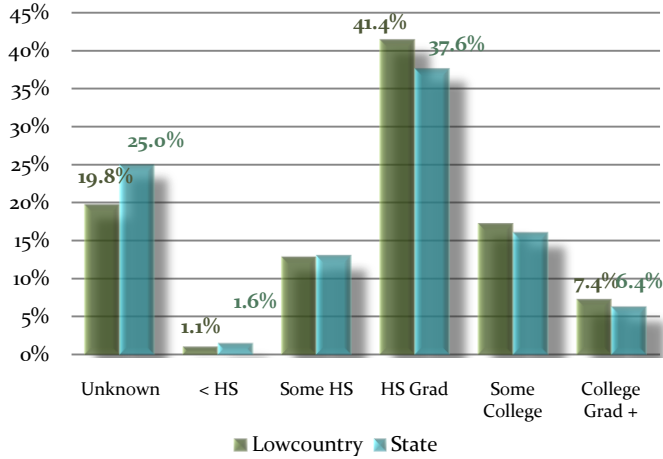
Age Range	% Claims Lowctry	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	4.5%	4.6%
21-30	23.3%	23.1%
31-40	18.6%	18.1%
41-50	18.6%	17.8%
51-60	12.2%	11.3%
61-70	3.3%	2.9%
71-80	0.4%	0.4%
81-90	0.0%	0.1%
91+	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	19.0%	21.7%
Average (if known)	38.3	37.9

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Lowcountry WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 23.3% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was only slightly higher in the Lowcountry WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for 19.0% of claims in Lowcountry which is slightly lower than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).

## Education

**Figure 12-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

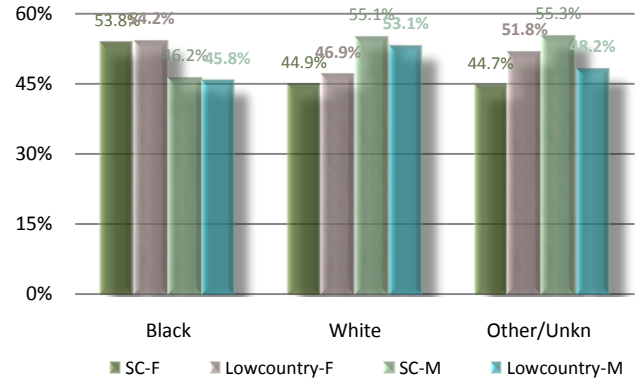


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide compared to 19.8% in Lowcountry.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Lowcountry WIA was marginally higher than the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Lowcountry:
  - ▶ 14.1% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 41.4% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 24.7% had at least one year of post-secondary education.

## Gender and Race

**Figure 12-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in Lowcountry; this difference is less pronounced than the state average.
- ▶ Conversely, African-American males participate at lower rates than African-American females in Lowcountry, and this is more pronounced compared to the state overall.
- ▶ Females were slightly more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded. This is opposite from the pattern statewide.

## Filing Method

**Table 12-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims	
	Lowcountry	Statewide
Employee	82.6%	81.0%
Employer	17.3%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.1%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to 17.3% in Lowcountry.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 12-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

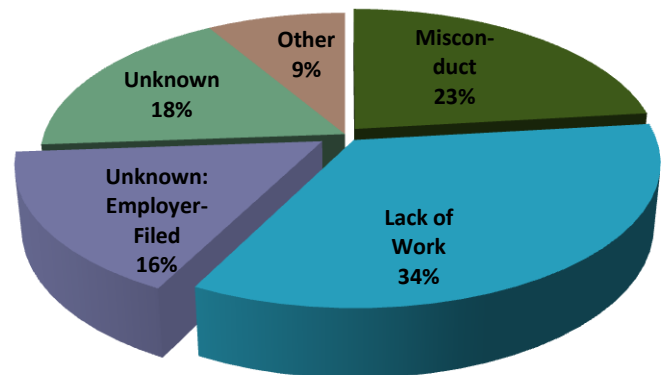
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Transportation/Warehousing	56.1%
Manufacturing	44.4%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	29.3%
Other Services	27.2%
Agriculture-Hunting	13.9%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with large percentages of employer-filed claims in the Lowcountry WIA are shown in Table 12-3. Employer-filed claims are concentrated in the Transportation/Warehousing industry with 56.1% of those claims.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 12-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



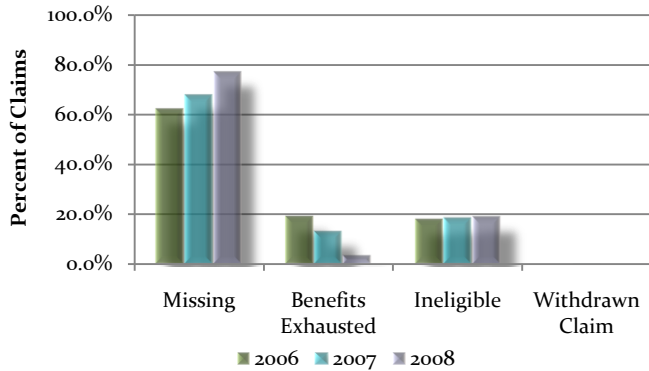
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 20,852 claims filed in Lowcountry between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 34% were filed for Lack of Work (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 23% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 9% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 34% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 48.1% of them were filed by employers which equates to 16% of all claims.

## Termination of Benefits Reason

**Figure 12-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 79.3% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 72% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 75% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 87% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 9.1% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 14% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 13% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 4% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 11.3%. By year:
  - ▶ 14% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 12% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 10% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

**Table 12-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Food Services and Drinking Places	2,203	10.6%	8.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	1,439	6.9%	5.3%
Administrative and Support Service	1,391	6.7%	13.0%
Accommodation	1,002	4.8%	2.2%
Construction of Buildings	757	3.6%	1.9%
Textile Mills	592	2.8%	5.7%
Transit and Ground Passenger Trans	577	2.8%	0.2%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	571	2.7%	1.3%
General Merchandise Stores	530	2.5%	2.2%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	516	2.5%	2.4%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Prof	435	2.1%	0.7%
Plastics and Rubber Products Mfg	418	2.0%	1.3%
Gasoline Stations	418	2.0%	1.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	418	2.0%	1.5%
UNKNOWN	1,889	9.1%	10.0%

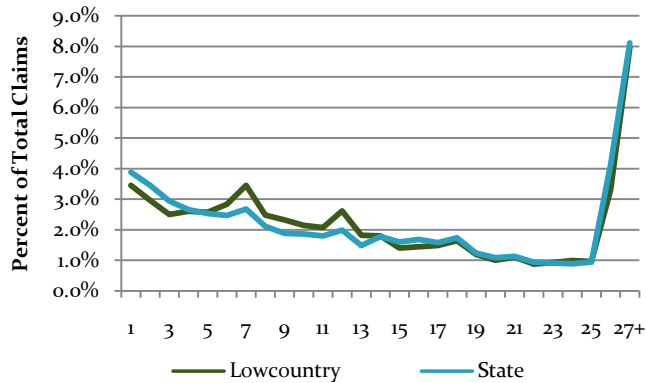
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 12-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Lowcountry include Food Services and Drinking Places and Specialty Trade Contractors.

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Lowcountry had more claims in:
  - ▶ Food Services and Drinking Places (10.6% vs. 8.1%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Lowcountry had fewer Administrative and Support Service industry claims.

## Duration

**Figure 12-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Lowcountry (14.7) was only marginally lower than the statewide average (15.0).

Figure 12-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). Lowcountry had slightly more claims with less than 13 weeks of duration compared to the state. Lowcountry had about the same percentage of claims with missing duration information (40.0%) compared to the state (40.5%).

## Repeat Claims

**Table 12-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Lowctry	Statewide
1	79.0%	72.4%
2	16.5%	20.8%
3	4.1%	6.1%
4	0.4%	0.6%
5	0.0%	0.1%
6	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Lowcountry had significantly fewer repeat claims compared to the state. About 4.5% of claimants filed three or more claims in Lowcountry compared to 6.8% in the state. This is in the bottom three among all WIAs.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 12-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Construction of Buildings	275.5%
Accommodation	238.6%
Food Services and Drinking Places	55.4%
Specialty Trade Contractors	43.2%
Administrative and Support Svcs	40.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 12-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Lowcountry. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Accommodation and Construction of Buildings industries.

## Key Lowcountry Characteristics

Central findings for the Lowcountry WIA include the following points:

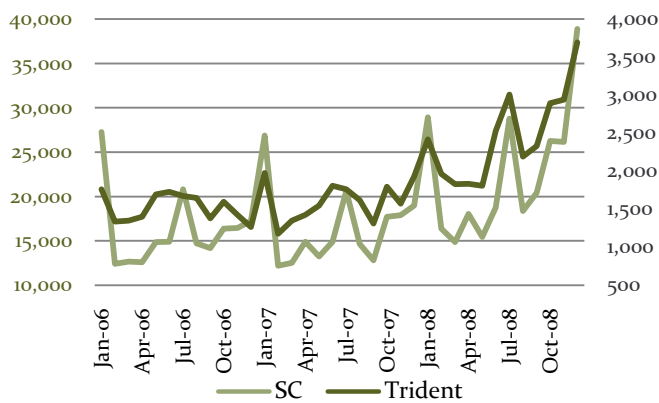
- ✓ Lowcountry had slightly more females and more educated claimants compared to the state. Other demographic characteristics were not notable.
- ✓ Although about the same percentage of claims filed were employer-filed in Lowcountry compared to statewide, they were less likely to be repeat claims. Average duration was slightly shorter than the state average. This shorter duration may have contributed to fewer claims that exhausted benefits compared to all other WIAs.
- ✓ The percentage of claims from the Construction industry was highest in this WIA compared to all others. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation also had a larger percentage of claims compared to the state.

# Trident

The Trident WIA had 67,033 claims for Unemployment Insurance in South Carolina between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, representing 54,162 individuals. Trident is characterized by claims that are longer in duration than average and more likely to be employee-filed. This WIA tended to have more male and more educated claimants than the state overall. The lower concentration in the seasonal industry of Manufacturing along with fewer employer-filed claims resulted in a lower percentage of repeat claimants in this WIA compared to all others.

## Total Claims

**Figure 13-1. Unemployment Insurance Claims Filed by Month, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

On average, 1,862 claims were filed each month in the Trident WIA. Figure 12-1 exhibits the seasonal nature of UI claims, with large spikes in filings in January of each year and smaller spikes in filings in July of each year. The claims in the Trident WIA do not appear to have the same dramatic spikes in July compared to the state overall.

## Age

**Table 13-1. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Age at Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Trident	% Claims Statewide
1-10	0.0%	0.0%
11-20	5.4%	4.6%
21-30	29.2%	23.1%
31-40	20.3%	18.1%
41-50	21.3%	17.8%
51-60	13.2%	11.3%
61-70	2.9%	2.9%
71-80	0.5%	0.4%
81-90	0.1%	0.1%
91+	0.1%	0.1%
Unknown	7.0%	21.7%
Average (if known)	37.6	37.9

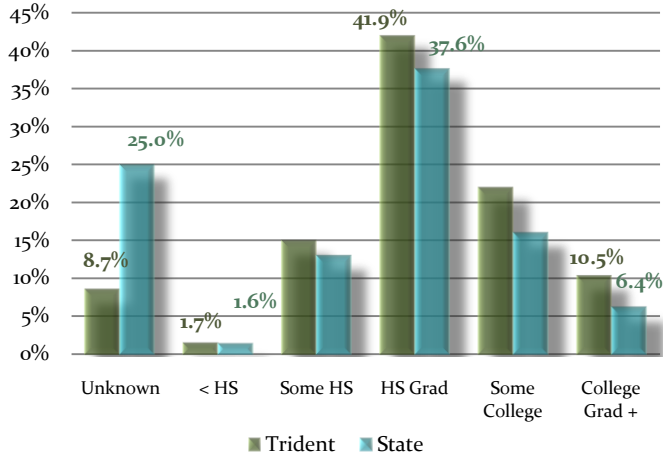
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ The largest percentage of UI claims in the Trident WIA fall within the 21 to 30 year old age range, representing 29.2% of claims compared to 23.1% statewide. The average age for claims with known ages was not significantly different in the Trident WIA compared to the state average.
- ▶ Ages are unknown for only 7.0% of claims in Trident which is significantly lower than the statewide percentage missing (21.7%).



## Education

**Figure 13-2. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Educational Attainment, 2006 – 2008**

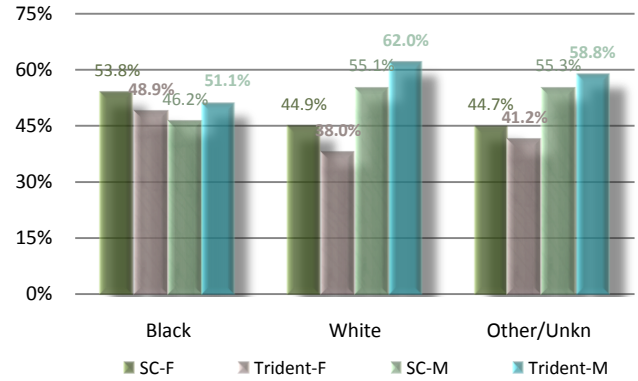


Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Educational attainment is not collected for 25% of claims statewide compared to only 8.7% in Trident.
- ▶ Educational attainment in the Trident WIA was marginally higher than the statewide average. For claims with known educational levels in Trident:
  - ▶ 16.8% did not complete high school,
  - ▶ 41.9% had a high school diploma or equivalent,
  - ▶ 32.6% had at least one year of post-secondary education (the second highest of any WIA).

## Gender and Race

**Figure 13-3. Unemployment Insurance Claimant Gender and Race, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

- ▶ Caucasian males participate at higher rates than Caucasian females in Trident; this difference is more pronounced than the state average.
- ▶ African-American males participate at slightly higher rates than African-American females in Trident, which is opposite of the state overall.
- ▶ Males were slightly more likely to report being in another racial category or having their race unrecorded.

## Filing Method

**Table 13-2. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**

Age Range	% Claims Trident	% Claims Statewide
Employee	93.8%	81.0%
Employer	6.1%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	0.1%	0.4%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Claims can be filed by the individual claimant or by the employer of the claimant. Employer-filed claims are referred to as “job-attached,” as many of them are filed for temporary closures after which the claimant will return to work.

- ▶ 18.6% of claims are filed by employers statewide compared to 6.1% in Trident which is the lowest of any WIA.
- ▶ No indicator in the UI system currently exists to distinguish between claims that are “job attached” versus permanent job loss.

**Table 13-3. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

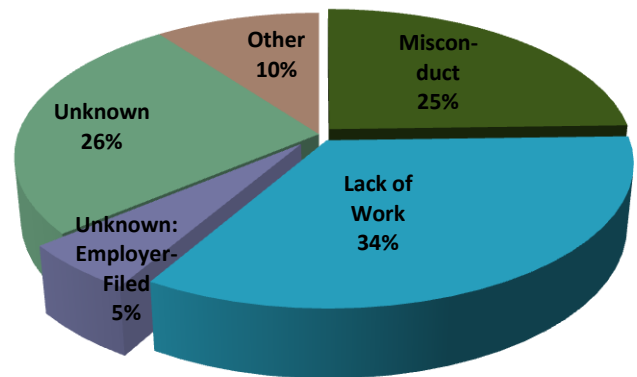
Industry	% Employer-Filed Claims
Manufacturing	21.2%
Mining-Extraction	13.2%
Transportation/Warehousing	11.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	10.7%
Unknown	10.3%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries with the largest percentages of employer-filed claims in the Trident WIA are shown in Table 13-3. Employer-filed claims are concentrated in the Manufacturing industry with 21.2% of those claims. This low percentage is consistent with the overall small number of employer-filed claims in Trident.

## Reason For Separation

**Figure 13-4. Unemployment Insurance Claim Reason for Separation, 2006 – 2008**



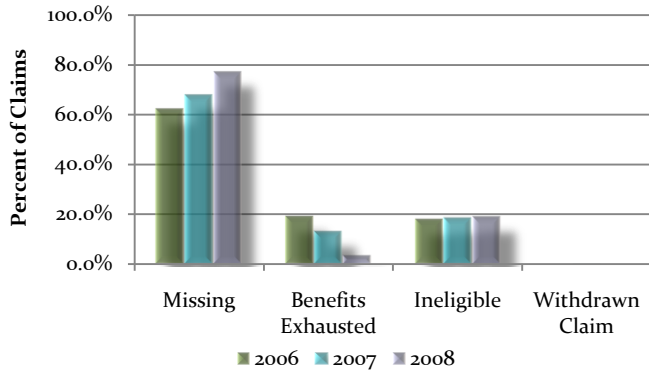
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

For each claim filed, the reason the claimant seeks UI should be documented. Of the 67,033 claims filed in Trident between 2006 and 2008,

- ▶ 34% were filed for Lack of Work (compared to 31% statewide),
- ▶ 25% were filed for Misconduct (20%),
- ▶ 10% were filed for other reasons including voluntarily quit, retirement, etc (10%), and
- ▶ 31% did not record the information (40%). Of those claims with unknown reasons for separation, 17.4% of them were filed by employers which equates to only 5% of all claims. This is the lowest percentage of any WIA.

## Termination of Benefits Reason

**Figure 13-5. Unemployment Insurance Claim Method of Filing, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

A UI claim can be terminated for one of three reasons—benefits are exhausted, the claimant is ineligible, or the claim is withdrawn by the claimant. Otherwise, the UI system does not track when a claim ends, as the claimant simply ceases to reapply for UI benefit payments.

Due to the right-censored nature of the dataset (i.e. some individuals who filed most recently still had active claims as of 12/31/2008 at which time the dataset ends), missing values are much more likely for claims filed in 2008. Likewise, Benefits Exhausted values are much more likely for claims filed in 2006.

- ▶ 72.3% of claims had Missing reason for termination. By year, these percentages were:
  - ▶ 62% missing in 2006,
  - ▶ 68% missing in 2007, and
  - ▶ 82% missing in 2008.
- ▶ Benefits were exhausted in 9.8% of claims. By year:
  - ▶ 16% exhausted in 2006,
  - ▶ 13% exhausted in 2007, and
  - ▶ 4% exhausted in 2008.
- ▶ Ineligible claims totaled 17.6%. By year:
  - ▶ 21% ineligible in 2006,
  - ▶ 19% ineligible in 2007, and
  - ▶ 15% ineligible in 2008.

## Claims by Industry

**Table 13-4. South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, 2006 – 2008**

Industry	# Claims	% Claims	% Claims Statewide
Administrative and Support Service	8,589	12.8%	13.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	5,745	8.6%	8.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	4,118	6.1%	5.3%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	2,935	4.4%	2.4%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	2,732	4.1%	2.7%
Accommodation	2,138	3.2%	2.2%
Construction of Buildings	1,967	2.9%	1.9%
General Merchandise Stores	1,731	2.6%	2.2%
Social Assistance	1,667	2.5%	1.4%
Educational Services	1,361	2.0%	1.5%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	1,330	2.0%	1.5%
Moto Vehicle and Parts Dealers	1,184	1.8%	1.3%
Merchant Wholesalers/Durable Goods	1,123	1.7%	1.6%
Nursing and Residential Care	1,061	1.6%	1.5%
UNKNOWN	7,867	11.7%	10.0%

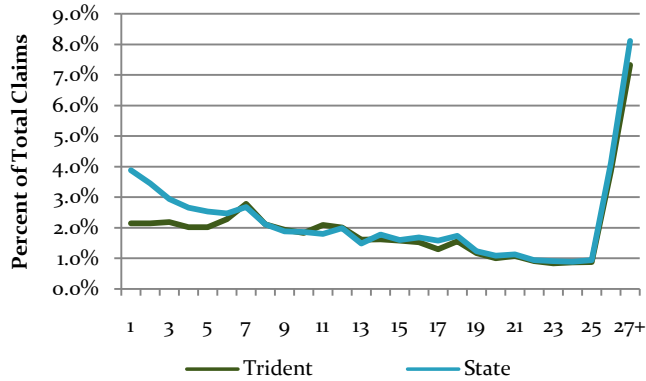
Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Industries from which the UI claims were initiated are shown in Table 13-4. Industries with the highest number of claims in Trident include Administrative and Support Service and Food Services and Drinking Places.

- ▶ Compared to the state average, Trident had more claims in:
  - ▶ Professional, Scientific, and Tech (4.4% vs. 2.4%)
- ▶ Compared to the state average, Trident had slightly fewer Administrative and Support Service industry claims.

## Duration

**Figure 13-6. Duration of South Carolina UI Benefits Received, 2006 – 2008**



Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Excluding claims that have durations of zero, the average number of weeks benefits were received in Trident (15.6) was higher than the statewide average (15.0).

Figure 13-6 shows the spike in number of claims receiving benefits at 26 weeks (the maximum number of state weeks) and at 27+ weeks (federal benefits have an extension up to 13 additional weeks). Trident had significantly fewer claims of less than 7 weeks duration compared to the state. Trident had more claims with missing duration information (47.2%) compared to the state (40.5%).

## Repeat Claims

**Table 13-5. Total Claims Filed, 2006-2008**

Number of Claims	Trident	Statewide
1	80.1%	72.4%
2	16.4%	20.8%
3	3.2%	6.1%
4	0.3%	0.6%
5	0.1%	0.1%
6	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.0%	0.0%
8	0.0%	0.0%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Trident had significantly fewer repeat claims compared to the state and the most claimants with only one claim out of all the WIAs. About 3.5% of claimants filed three or more claims in Trident compared to 6.8% in the state. This is in the lowest among all WIAs.

## Seasonal Claims

**Table 13-6. Peak-to-Trough Percent Change, 2006-2008**

Industry	January-February Peak-to-Trough
Food Services and Drinking Places	447.1%
Transportation Equipment Mfg	90.0%
Administrative and Support Svcs	47.3%
Specialty Trade Contractors	22.9%
Professional, Scientific, and Tech	6.8%

Source: Commerce analysis of ESC UI Claimant data

Table 13-6 shows the peak-to-trough percentages for industries with high concentrations of claims in Trident. The large percent change in the number of claims between January and February may indicate a seasonal nature for the Food Services and Drinking Places industry.

## Key Trident Characteristics

Central findings for the Trident WIA include the following points:

- ✓ Trident claimants were, on average, more educated and more likely to be male than the state average. They did not differ significantly on other demographic characteristics from the state overall.
- ✓ This WIA had a larger number of claims filed due to Misconduct which led to a larger number of claims denied for ineligibility.
- ✓ Trident had the fewest repeat claimants and also fewer claims with short duration. It was also the WIA with the highest percentage of employee-filed claims. Unlike the rest of the state, employment was not concentrated in the seasonal industry of Manufacturing.