

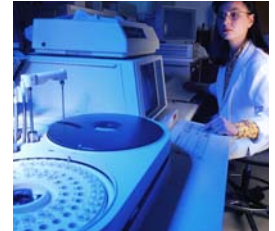
## Civilian Labor Force

### 2006 Averages

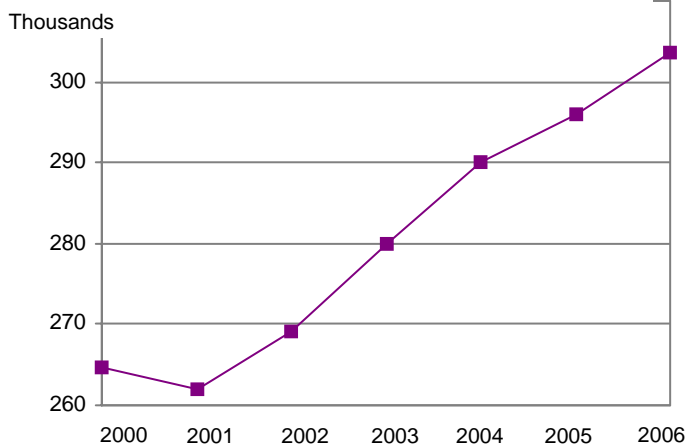
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Charleston Metro Area	306,292	290,308	15,984	5.2%
South Carolina	2,126,439	1,988,378	138,061	6.5%
United States	151,428,000	144,427,000	7,001,000	4.6%

### Historical Averages — Charleston Metro Area

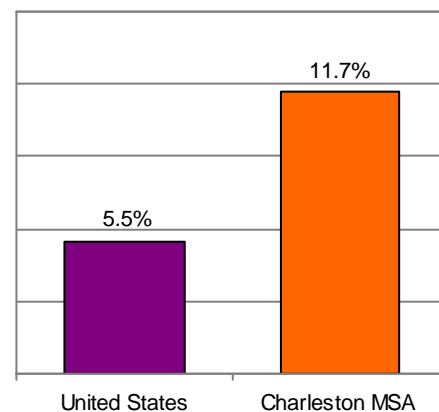
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2000	264,738	256,523	8,215	3.1%
2001	261,859	250,491	11,368	4.3%
2002	269,107	256,767	12,340	4.6%
2003	279,906	265,155	14,751	5.3%
2004	290,125	274,611	15,514	5.3%
2005	295,948	279,875	16,073	5.4%



Charleston Metro Area Workforce



Employment Growth (2000-2006)



## Employment Growth

Since 1995, businesses have invested more than \$5.5 billion in the Charleston region, creating nearly 60,000 net new jobs. Between 2000 and 2006, employment in the region grew nearly 12%, compared with the national growth rate of 5.5%.

With new residents arriving daily, the growth of the region's workforce is also outpacing that of the nation. The workforce in the Charleston region grew 14.1% between 2000 and 2006, more than double the 6.2% growth rate for the nation as a whole. With new jobs keeping pace with new residents, the region's unemployment rate has consistently remained at or below that of the U.S. for the past few years.

## Right-to-Work State

The state of South Carolina is a right-to-work state. As a result, the Charleston region has a very low unionization rate. In 2006, just 1.7% of workers in the Charleston metro area were members of an organized union, well below the national average of 12%.

## Employment by Sector

The Charleston region is not dominated by any one economic sector, contributing to the region's overall economic vitality and stability.

### 2006 Averages

NAICS Sectors	Number Employed	Percent of Total Employment
Manufacturing	21,833	7.5%
Wholesale Trade	7,992	2.8%
Retail Trade	38,492	13.3%
Transportation & Utilities	11,258	3.9%
Professional & Business Services	37,875	13.1%
Information Services	4,558	1.6%
Financial Activities	14,050	4.9%
Education & Health Services	29,300	10.1%
Leisure & Hospitality Services	36,692	12.7%
Other Services	11,792	4.1%
Natural Resources / Construction / Mining	21,508	7.4%
Government / Public Administration	54,067	18.7%

## A Growing Base of Scientists, Technicians & Engineers

Between 2000 and 2006:

- The number of scientists, engineers and architects working in the Charleston region grew 41% to a total of 8,510 compared to a 1% increase in such workers for the nation as a whole.
- The number of employees in occupations related to information technology or mathematics grew 40% to a total of 4,420 compared to overall U.S. growth of 5%

## A Magnet for New Workers

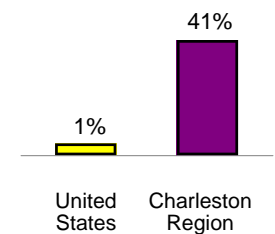
The workforce in the Charleston region continues to expand due to a number of converging factors:

- A steady stream of new workers relocating to the region. Statistically, 57% of new-comer households have at least one skilled worker seeking employment.
- Graduates of area colleges and universities. Nearly 6,000 degrees are awarded annually in the region, and a large number of graduates choose to remain in the area.
- Commuters. Nearly 11,000 workers from outside the Charleston MSA commute *into* the region to work.

## Underemployment

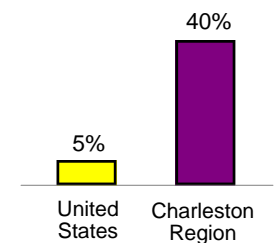
According to a February 2006 workforce assessment study conducted by an independent national consultant group, approximately 30,000 workers residing within the labor draw area of the Charleston region (Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester and eastern Orangeburg counties) can be defined as "underemployed." (Contact the Charleston Regional Development Alliance for the full report.)

### Scientist, Engineering & Architect Workers



### Info Tech & Mathematics Workers

*Growth Rate 2000-2006*



#### Data Sources

4/07 S.C. Employment Security Commission

4/07 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Workforce Training & Development

The state of South Carolina helps fund the training needs of South Carolina businesses through three major workforce training options:

- Customized Workforce Training (Center for Accelerated Technology Training)
- Jobs Training Partnership Program (JTPA) / Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Existing Industry Retraining Funds

Qualified businesses include those new to South Carolina, as well as existing businesses that are expanding or restructuring (service, retail or call centers don't qualify).

### Customized Workforce Training

The Center for Accelerated Technology Training (CATT), a division of the State Board of Technical and Comprehensive Education, is designed to provide qualifying companies with a pre-trained and productive workforce on the first day of operations.

This state-funded program assumes the responsibility for recruiting, screening and testing trainees and the training of workers in the job skills required by the company. Each training program is customized to meet company standards. Almost without exception, the CATT program is provided at little or no cost to the company.

The program includes some or all of the following:

- Trainee recruitment, screening and testing in conjunction with the South Carolina Employment Security Commission
- Instructor recruitment and training
- Provision for training site(s), if not conducted on company property
- Development of instructional materials, including print, audio and video
- Training in hazardous materials handling
- Introduction to ISO Certification
- Team leader development, team building
- Complete program management from beginning to successful start-up and expansion assistance

### Jobs Training Partnership Program/Workforce Investment Act



Operating on a statewide basis, JTPA/WIA provides employee training for new and expanding industries as well as customized skills training designed to meet the manpower needs of specific employers. Both on-the-job and classroom programs are available.

In the Charleston region, the program operates as part of the public-private partnership called the Trident One-Stop Career Center, which is a one-stop shop of agencies and organizations that offer numerous employment-related services to both job seekers and employers.



*CATT provides recruiting, assessment, program development, management and implementation services to companies creating new jobs with competitive wages and benefits.*

#### Related Websites

For more information on workforce development:

[www.scccommerce.com](http://www.scccommerce.com)

[www.cattsc.com](http://www.cattsc.com)

## Existing Industry Retraining Funds

Eligible businesses may negotiate with the Coordinating Council for Economic Development for the withholding of up to \$500 per production employee per year for the purpose of retraining, provided that the retraining is necessary for the business to remain competitive or to introduce new technologies. "Production employee" includes employees who are engaged in the actual making of tangible personal property or who are directly involved in the manufacturing, processing, operations or distribution process.

The retraining must be approved and coordinated by the technical college(s) under the jurisdiction of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education serving the designated enterprise zone. In the Charleston region, that organization is Trident Technical College.

Withholdings and expenditures under this section may not exceed \$500 in a year, nor \$2,000 over five years. The company must match on a dollar-for-dollar basis the employee's withholding share used for the training. The total amount withheld, together with the matching funds, is to be paid to the technical college providing the training. Any training cost in excess of the withheld and matching funds is the responsibility of the company, based on negotiations with the technical college.

In order to collect funds for retraining, a company must submit an application with an application fee of \$500 to the Coordinating Council.