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AREA DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Horry County Unemployment Rate Remains Lowest in State

Horry County's unemployment rate remained at 4.3% for the month of August which is well below the state and national average. The county's unemployment rate is well below the August 2006 rate of 4.9%. South Carolina's unemployment rate was 5.6% in August! This was three-tenths of a percentage point below the July rate of 5.9% and a full percentage point below the year-ago rate of 6.6%. The number of unemployed dropped nearly 7,700 from the July level, and was down almost 20,000 from last year's level. This significant drop can be attributed to a decline in the number of people who have lost jobs over the month, as well as a decline in the number of people entering the job market. The national unemployment rate remains unchanged at 4.6%.

The number of non-farm jobs in South Carolina rose 22,200 in August, which is a typical increase for this time of year. All of the increases occurred in the Government sector as state and local schools began re-staffing for the fall term. Private sector jobs were down 800 over the month as job gains in Professional and Business Services (+2,500) and Education and Health Services (+700) were more than offset by losses in Leisure and Hospitality (-2,200), Manufacturing (-1000), and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-700). Overall, the non-farm job count was 35,000 above the August 2006 level.

Horry County is still surrounded by counties with moderate to high rates of unemployment. Marion County possesses the highest unemployment in the state at 11.1%. Dillon County's unemployment rate is 9.8%, Williamsburg County is 8.5%, and Georgetown County is 6.2%.

Over the next few months, the state's economy should be driven by further increases in Education-related employment and the winding down of the tourist season. Little change is expected in the state's unemployment rate during this period.

Charles F. Haneman, Area Director

**Have
positions
to fill?**

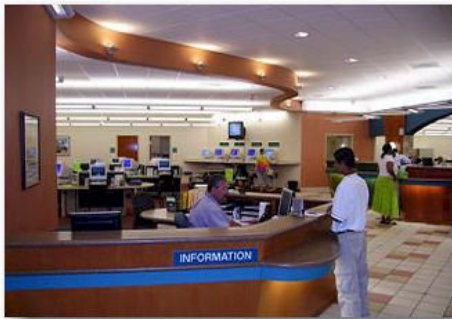
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Job Order**

FREE

On line

at

www.coastalworkforce.org



Let us help you:

**Manage the
resume and
job
application
process,
whether**



UP TO 75% REIMBURSEMENT



The WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Program works for you to fill positions and save your company up to 75% !

Hire a WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Participant through an OJT (On-the-Job Contract) Contract and **we reimburse your company 75% (companies with 1-99 employees) or 50% (companies with 100 + employees)** of the beginning hourly wage for a period up to ten (10) weeks! *(The number of weeks is determined by the skill level of the position according to the Department of Labor.)*

OR

Take on a WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Participant through a Jump Start Contract, **WE** pay the employee \$7.50 per hour and cover the Workers' Compensation for four weeks. **This is a training program.** train according to your standard operating procedures.

**For further information, contact Lynette Nobles,
Coastal Workforce Center, (843) 234-9675!**

Equal opportunity employer/program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities .All voice telephone numbers may be reached using TTY/TDD equipment via the South Carolina Relay services at 711.

MARY NELL'S UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE NEWS!

Q. *Can an appeal be taken by telephone or faxed in to the local workforce center?*

A. No. Appeals may be filed in person at the local workforce center, mailed to the Appeals Department in Columbia, or by fax to the Appeals Department.

Q. *Is there a vacation policy for employees filing unemployment insurance?*

A. The SCESC law allows an employer to close his business without compensation to his employees for up to 2 weeks in a calendar year which will not be considered weeks of unemployment. The weeks may be consecutive weeks. Our agency will issue an ineligible determination for a claimed week if the week has been approved as a bona fide vacation week. Work must be available for the employee at the end of the bona fide vacation week. You may get additional information concerning the policy from your local workforce center.

Questions should be directed to our office at (843) 234-9675.

Mary Nell Smith, Asst. Area Director



**your
company
has its own
application
form,
accepts
standard
resumes, or
has other
procedures
for
reviewing
job
candidates.**



www.coastalworkforce.org



Wealth of Information

The Department of Labor has a wealth of information for businesses concerning veteran employment rights. This a sample of the questions and answer located at www.dol.gov.

Question: Does the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) apply to part-time employees?

Answer: Yes, both part-time and probationary employees are covered by USERRA.

Question: What are the basic reemployment rights when an employee returns following military service?

Answer: The employer must promptly reemploy the service member. "Promptly" means within days, not months. Generally the reemployment position should be the one the person would have attained had he or she remained continuously employed during the period of military service.

For further information contact Tony Johnson or Jerome Kittles at (843) 234-9675!



DISABILITY NAVIGATOR CORNER



What is discrimination based on "relationship or association" under the ADA?

The ADA prohibits discrimination based on relationship or association in order to protect individuals from actions based on unfounded assumptions that their relationship to a protect individuals from actions based on unfounded assumptions that their relationship to a person with a disability would affect their job performance, and from actions caused by bias or misinformation concerning certain disabilities. For example, this provision would protect a person whose spouse has a disability from being denied employment because of an employer's unfounded assumptions that the application would use excessive leave to care for the spouse. It also would protect an individual who does volunteer work for people with AIDS from a discriminatory employment action motivated by that relationship or association.

Contact Ashley Ellison the Disability Program Navigator at the Coastal Workforce Center for more information or assistance at (843) 234-9675 or aellison@sces.org