

Economic Indicators - - - - Columbia Metro Area

March 2009

<u>Unemployment Rate (unadjusted)</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Richland County	6.2%	7.2 %	+1.0 %
Lexington County	4.3 %	6.0 %	+1.7 %
Columbia Metro	5.8%	7.0 %	+1.2 %
South Carolina	6.4%	8.4 %	+2.0 %
United States	4.6 %	6.7 %	+2.1 %

Source: SC Employment Security Commission, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

<u>Labor Force</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total Civilian Labor Force	373,891	374,918	+ 0.3 %
Total Employed	352,167	346,746	-1.5 %
Total Unemployed	21,724	28,172	+29.7 %

Source: SC Employment Security Commission

<u>Major Industry Employment</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Manufacturing	31,200	30,400	-2.6 %
Trade	57,800	57,000	-1.4 %
Services	179,900	177,700	-1.2 %
Government	79,900	81,400	+1.9 %

Source: SC Employment Security Commission

<u>Utilities</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Active Electricity Customers (regional)	475,000	649,600	+36.8 %

Source: SCE&G

<u>Building Permits: Rich/Lex Co.</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
New Non-Residential Permits	751	920	+22.5 %
Value: New Non-Residential Permits	\$309,189,977	\$436,525,456	+41.2 %
New Residential Permits	6,776	4,663	-31.2 %
Value of New Residential Permits	\$881,913,432	\$656,705,508	-25.5 %

Source: Central Midlands Council of Governments

<u>Residential Activity</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Number of Homes Sold	10,631	8,446	- 20.6 %
Median Price of Homes Sold	\$145,000	\$143,000	-1.4 %

Source: South Carolina Association of Realtors

<u>Gross Sales*</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Lexington County	\$9,555,498,270	\$9,682,514,053	+1.3 %
Richland County	\$10,875,923,391	\$10,815,456,663	-0.6 %

Source: SC Dept of Revenue

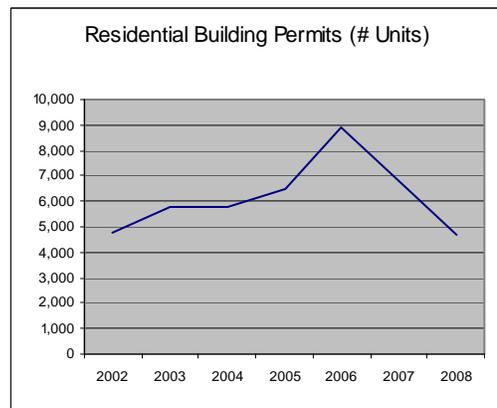
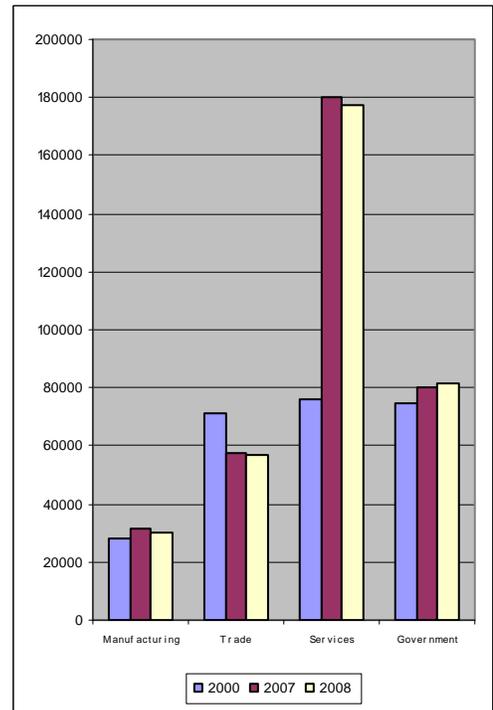
* Calendar Year; 2007 unaudited

<u>Domestic Travel Expenditures (\$mil)</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>% Change</u>
South Carolina	9,109.93	9,704.01	+6.5 %
Lexington County	417.84	440.32	+5.4 %
Richland County	444.39	474.27	+6.7 %

Source: SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

<u>Airport Activity</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total Passengers	1,139,248	1,149,682	+0.9 %

Source: Columbia Metropolitan Airport



Please visit our websites:
www.centralmidlands.org
 &
www.scmidlandsinfo.com
 for more information on the Central
 Midlands Region.

